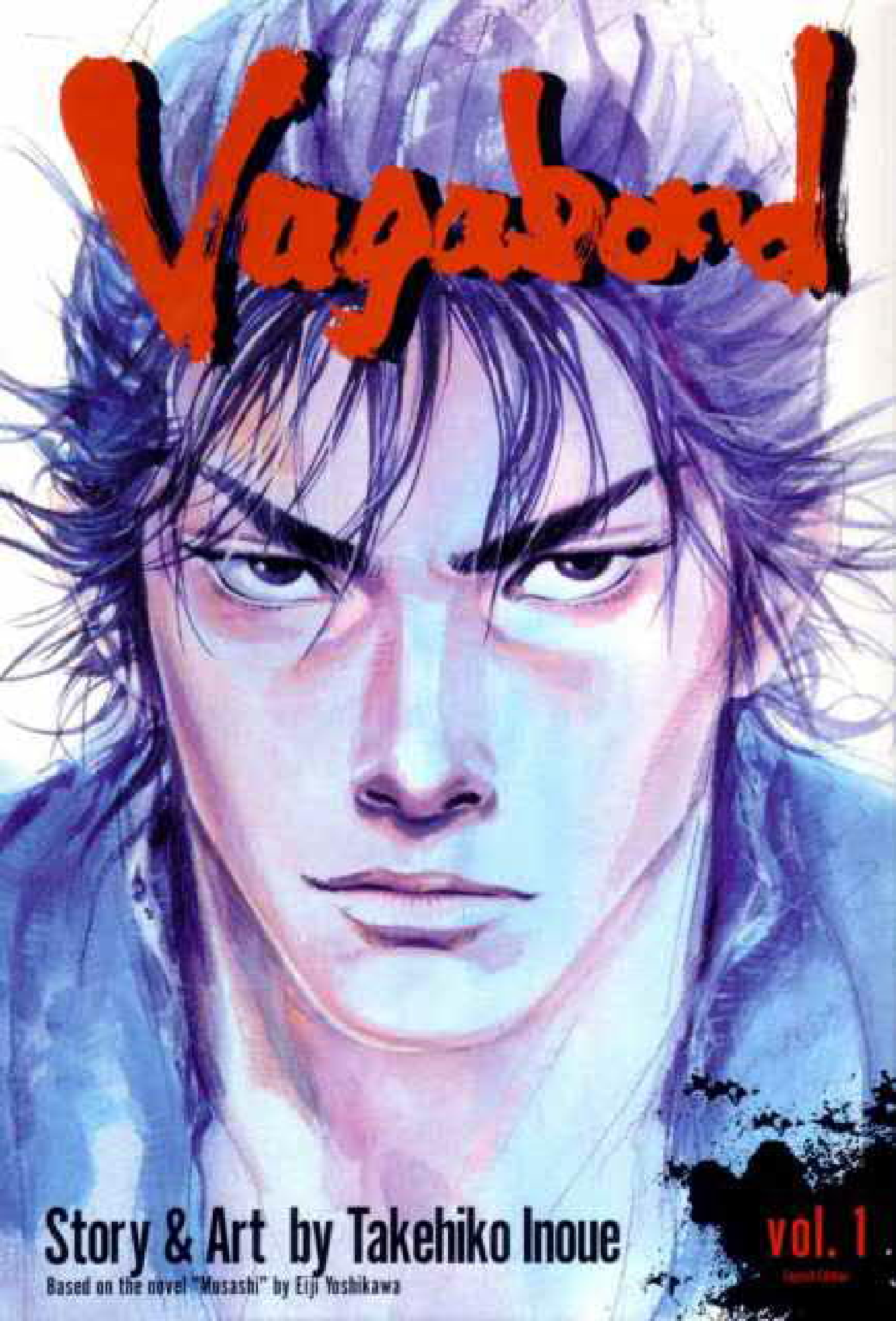
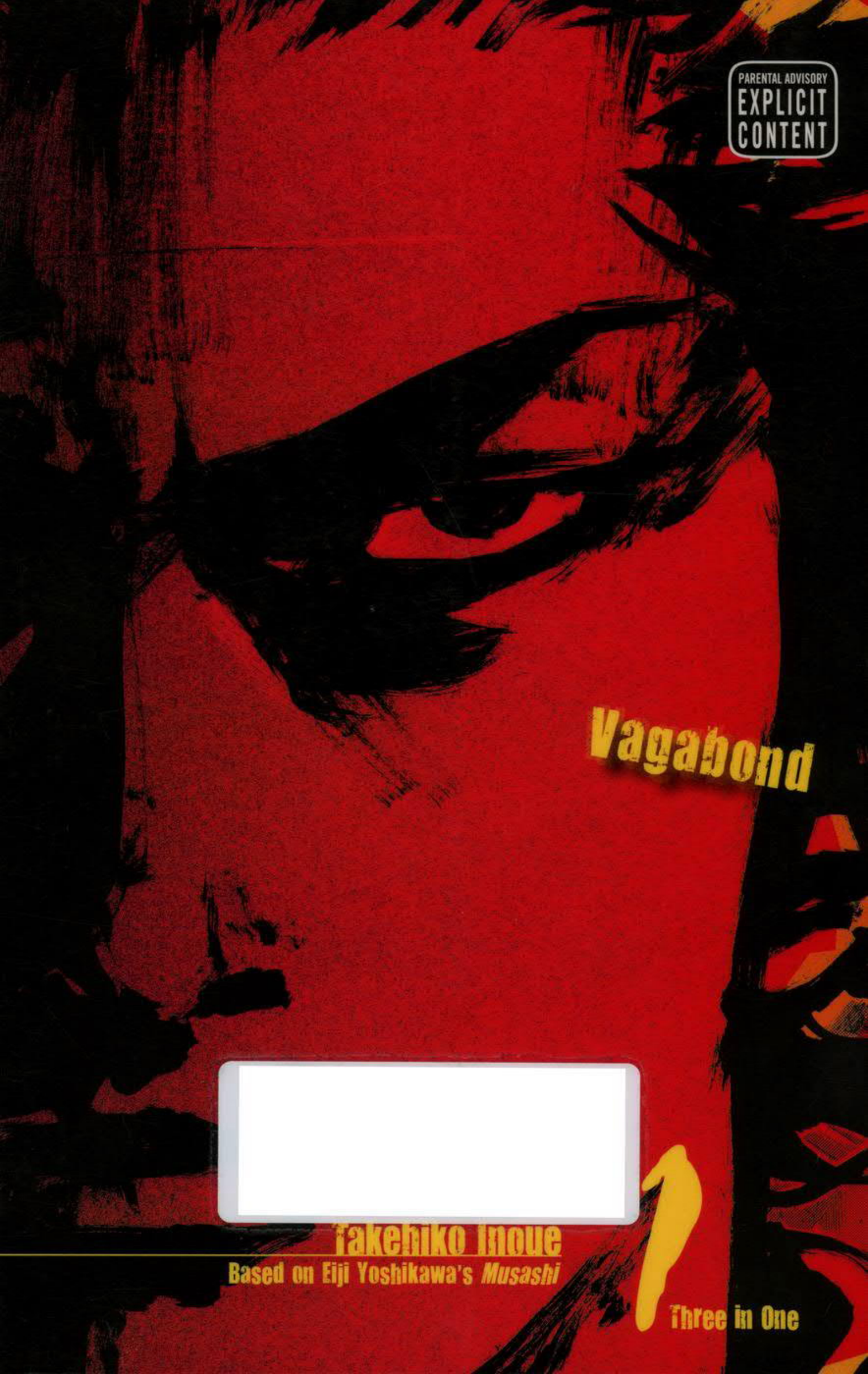

Vagabond
Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue
Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa
vol. 1


PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT
Vagabond
Takehiko Inoue
Based on Eiji Yoshikawa's *Musashi*
1
Three in One

Vagabond

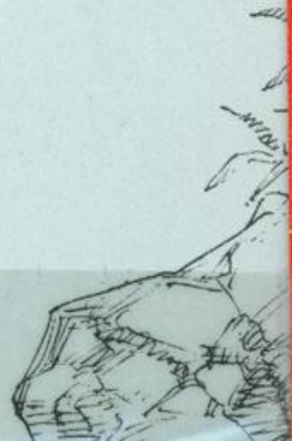
Takehiko Inoue

1

Invincible Under the Sun

Real-life figure Miyamoto Musashi was the most celebrated samurai of all time. The quintessential warrior philosopher, Musashi authored *A Book of Five Rings*, a theoretical guide to military strategy still used today. But the path to enlightenment in feudal era Japan was fraught with peril. At seventeen years of age, Musashi—still known by his childhood name, Shinmen Takezō—was a wild young brute just setting out along the way of the sword.

In the aftermath of the epic Battle of Sekigahara, Takezō finds himself a fugitive survivor on the losing side of the war. Takezō's vicious nature has made him an outcast even in his own village, and he is hunted down like an animal. At this crucial crossroads in Tākezo's life, an eccentric monk and a childhood friend are the only ones who can help him find his way.



A COLLECTION OF VOLUMES 1-3

About the Author

Takehiko Inoue is the creator of one of the most popular manga of all time, *Slam Dunk*, which has sold over 100 million copies worldwide. He followed that series up with two titles lauded by critics and fans alike—*Vagabond*, a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi, and *Real*, a manga about wheelchair basketball.

Inoue is the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Tezuka Osamu Culture award and the Media Arts Festival Award. In addition to his work on manga, Inoue has worked on television commercials, character designs for video games and is the founder of a scholarship to foster Japanese basketball talent.

About the Series

Takehiko Inoue's *Vagabond* is loosely based on the novel *Musashi*, Eiji Yoshikawa's fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi. This classic samurai tale has been adapted into numerous television series and films, including an Academy Award-winning movie. In his own version, Inoue approaches the pinnacle of manga artistry with richly detailed line art and a lyrical, fast-paced narrative. An international bestseller, this must-read manga is now available in a VIZBIG Edition: three of the original graphic novel releases collected into one volume, featuring color artwork and bonus content.

• Chapter 5 Blood Game • Chapter 6 The Troubles of Hon'iden Matahachi at Seventeen

• Chapter 7 Farewell Takezō • Chapter 8 Miyamoto Village • Chapter 9 Fiancée

• Chapter 10 Left Behind

No Fear • Chapter 16 Captured • Chapter 17 Invincible Under the Sun

• Chapter 19 The Demon's Child • Chapter 20 Death • Chapter 21 A Place in the Sun

Chaos at the Yoshioka School • Chapter 26 The Master • Chapter 27 Instinct • Chapter 28 Demon II

• Chapter 29 Ignorance • Chapter 30 A Single Stroke • Chapter 31 Inferno

Volume 1

Chapter 1 Shinmen Takezō • Chapter 2 Akemi • Chapter 3 Okō • Chapter 4 The Brigand Tsujikaze

Vagabond

Volume 2

Chapter 11 Demon • Chapter 12 Takuan • Chapter 13 Life • Chapter 14 Cut Down • Chapter 15

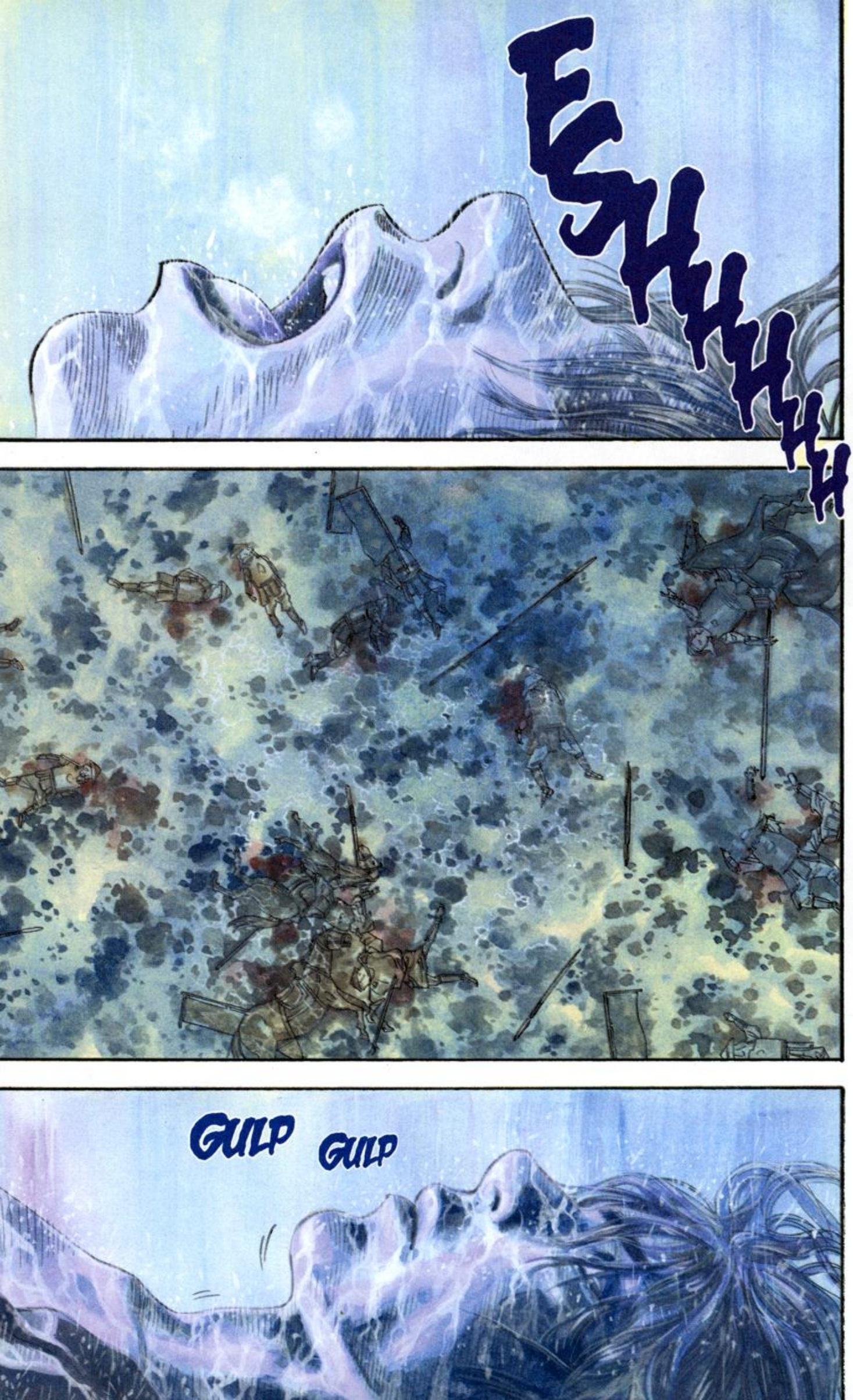
VIZBIG Edition
Volume 1

• Chapter 18 Tree of Shame

Volume 3

Chapter 22 Miyamoto Musashi • Chapter 23 First Step • Chapter 24 The Challenge • Chapter 25

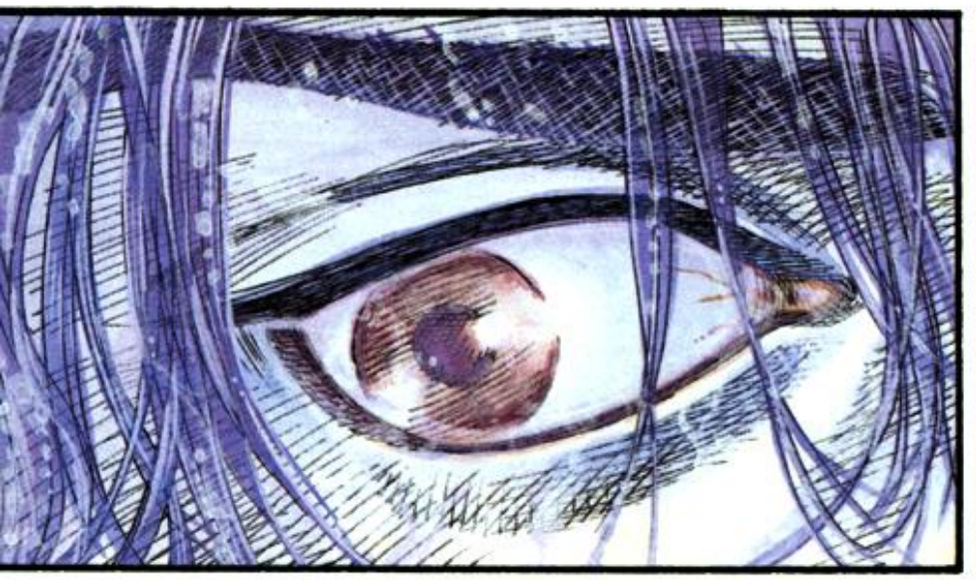
Takehiko Inoue
Based on Eiji Yoshikawa's *Musashi*

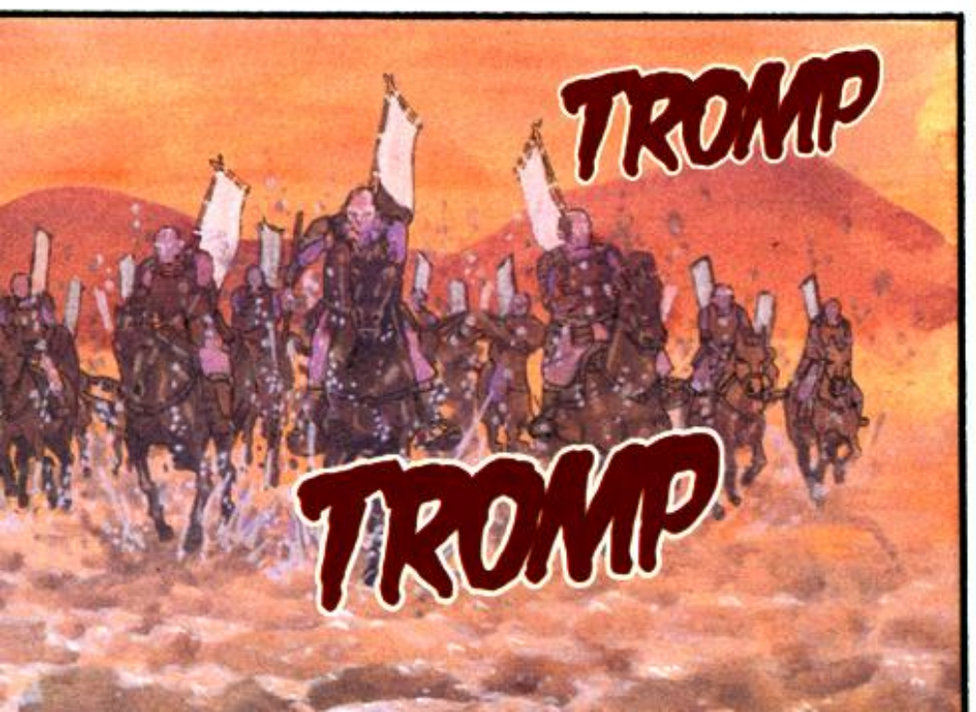

ESHHHHH
GULP GULP

THE BATTLE
OF SEKIGAHARA...

TROMP

...HAS ENDED.



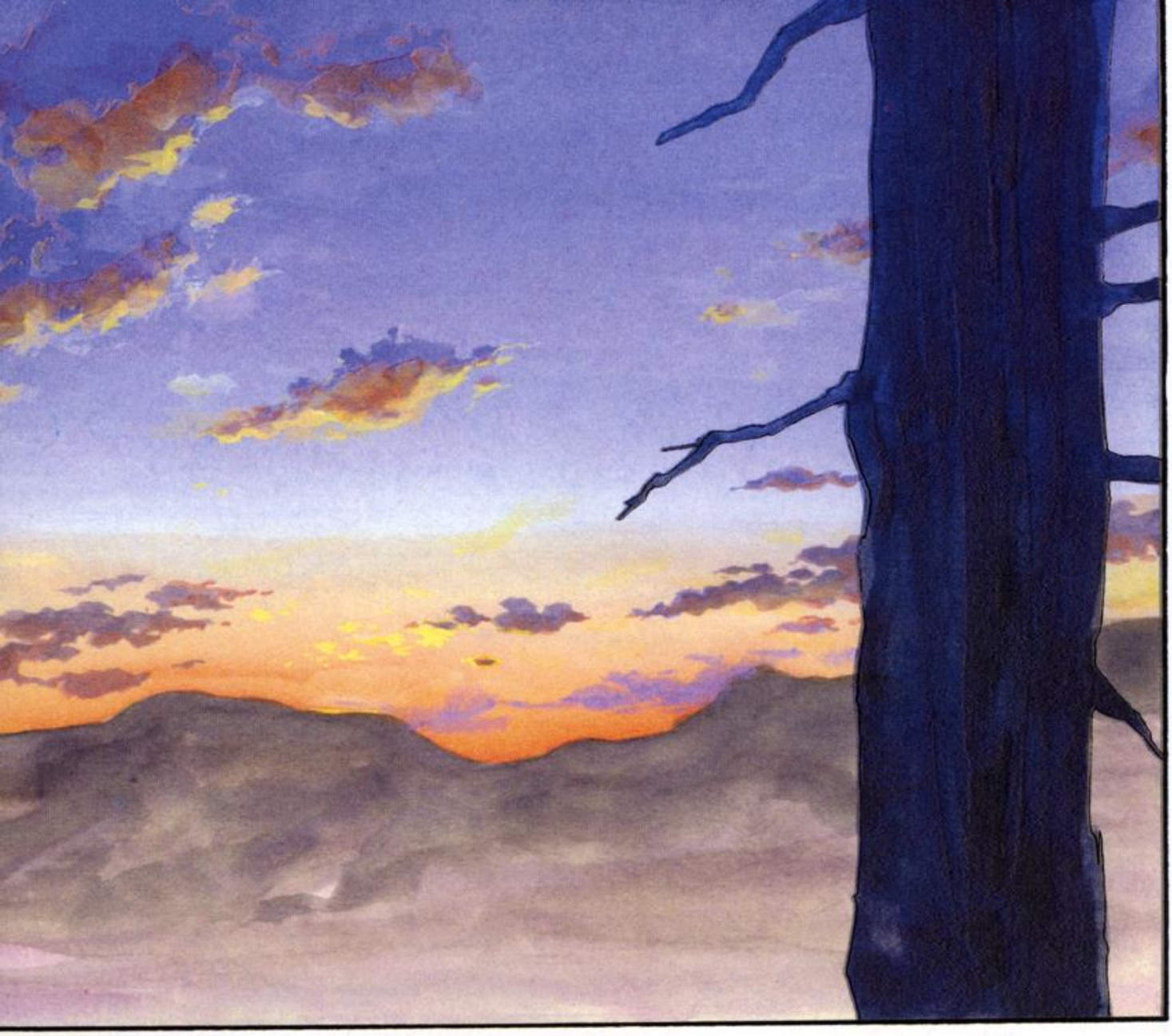

TROMP
TROMP

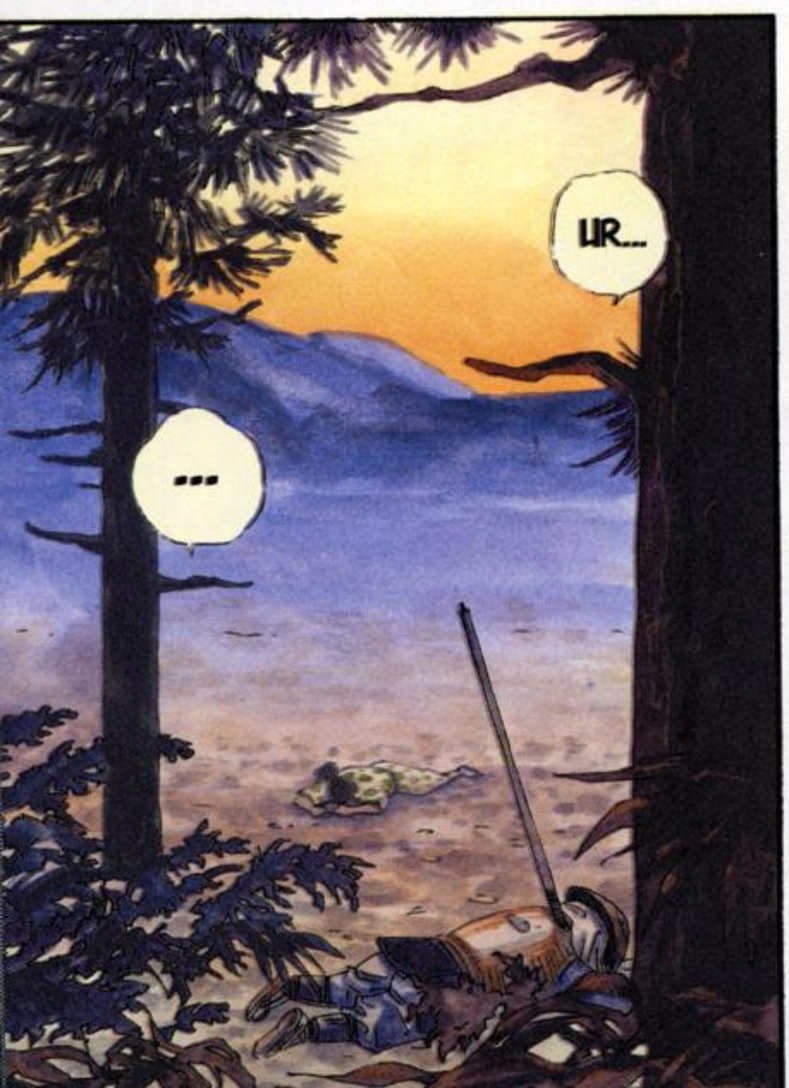
TROMP

I'M A
FAILURE.

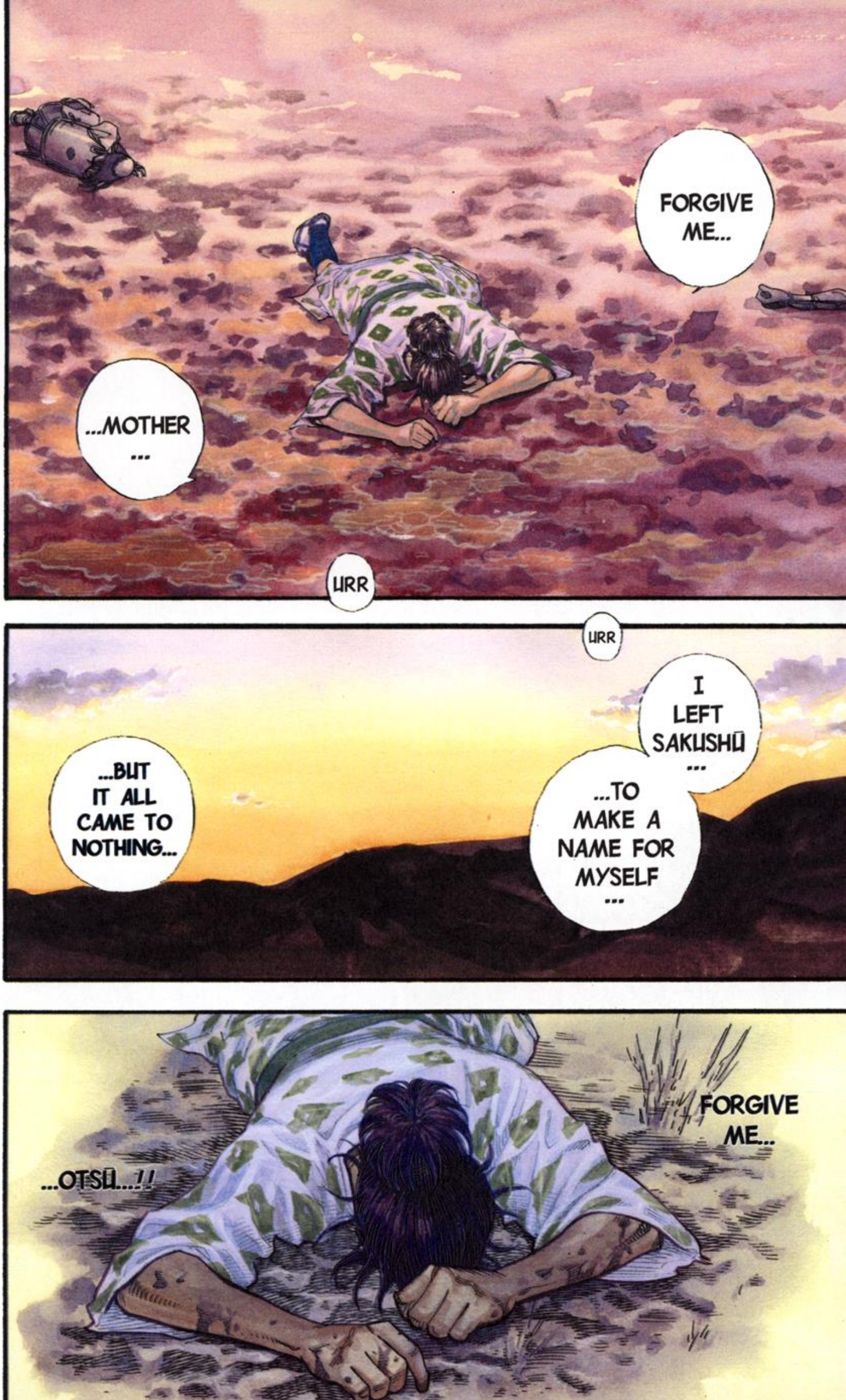
Vagabond
vol. 1
#1 | Shinmen Takezō

TRUMP
TRUMP
TRUMP
TRUMP
TRUMP




UR...
...

UR...
UR...


FORGIVE ME...
...MOTHER ...
URR
URR
I LEFT SAKUSHŪ ...
...TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF ...
...BUT IT ALL CAME TO NOTHING...
FORGIVE ME...
...OTSŪ...!!

!!
FWOK

REFUGEE HUNTERS!

A SURVIVOR...

URR...

I SURVIVED, TOO...

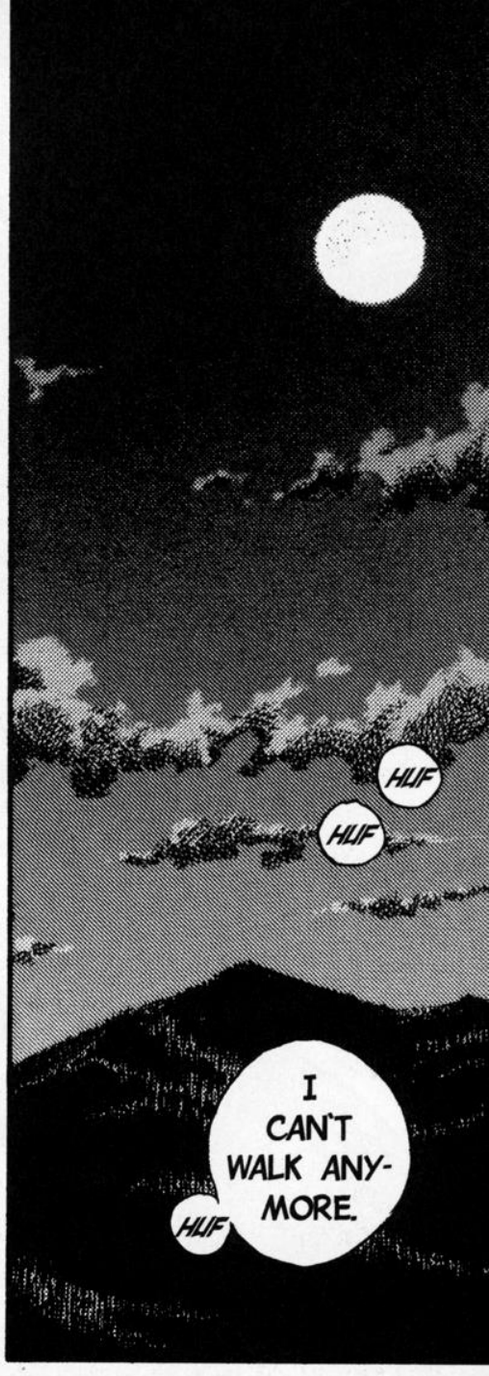
MATAHACHI.

FWP

TAKEZŌ!!

SOBB
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
SOB
SNIF
SOB
CAN YOU WALK?
TO SCARE ME!
LET'S GET GOING.

HUF
HUF
TAKEZŌ.
JUST LEAVE ME HERE.
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HAK
I'M FINISHED.


HUF
HUF
I CAN'T WALK ANY-MORE.
HUF

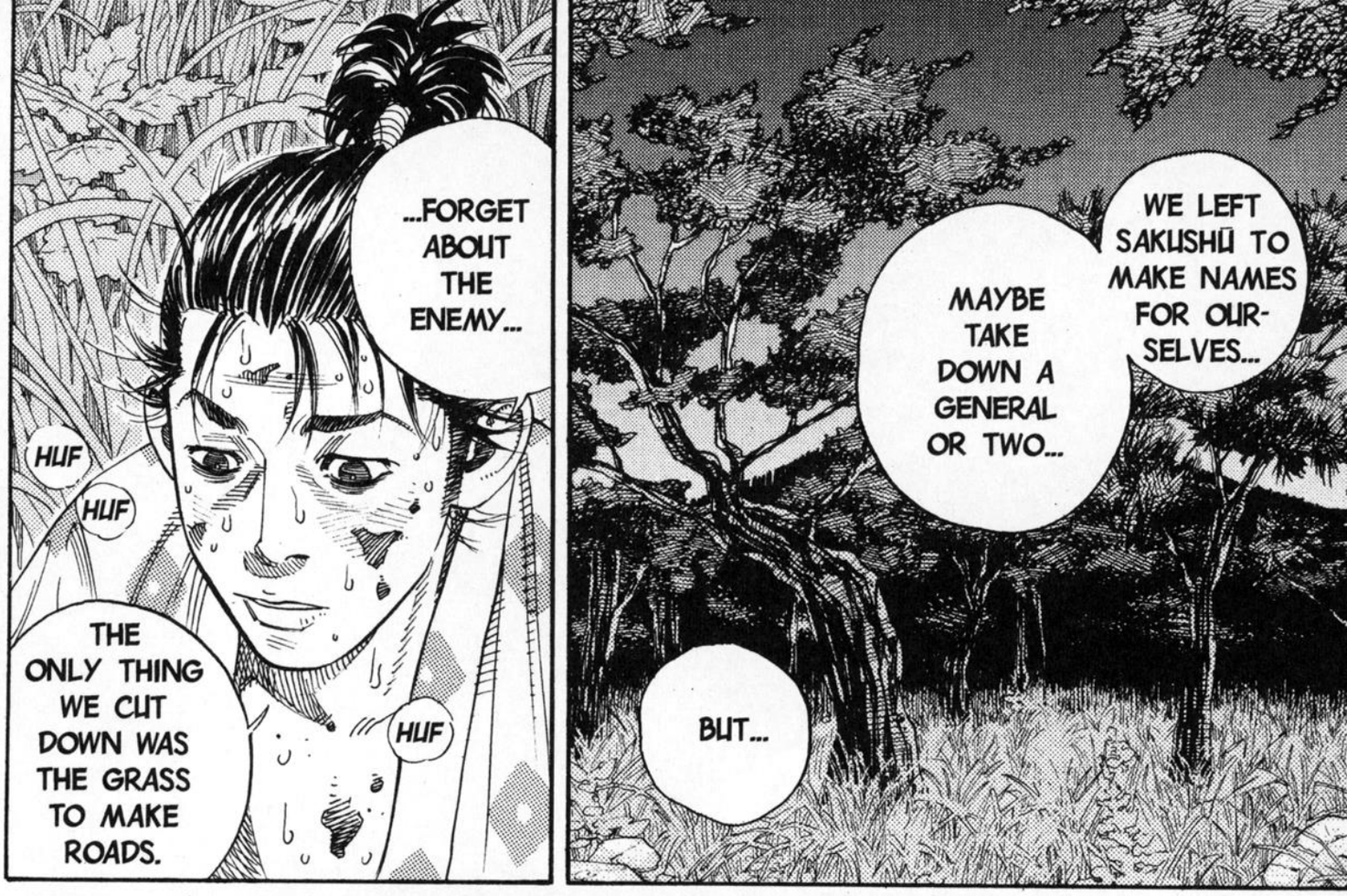
ALL WE'VE HAD TO EAT IS GRASS.
THESE PAST FEW DAYS...
HUF
HUF
SHUFF
SHUFF

HUF
HUF
HUF
TAKEZŌ ...

ONCE WE FIND A VIL-LAGE WE'LL GET SOME MEDICINE.
IT WON'T BE LONG.
TUGG

PLOP
DRIBBLE DRIBBLE
...
BRAD

IS
THIS...
...ALL
WE
AMOUNT
TO?


...FORGET ABOUT THE ENEMY...
HUF
HUF
HUF
THE ONLY THING WE CUT DOWN WAS THE GRASS TO MAKE ROADS.
WE LEFT SAKUSHŪ TO MAKE NAMES FOR OUR-SELVES...
MAYBE TAKE DOWN A GENERAL OR TWO...
BUT...

AND NOW WE'RE ON THE LOSING SIDE...
WE WERE HANDED MACHETES INSTEAD OF SPEARS...

BRAAP

I'M GOING TO LAST MUCH LONGER...
HUF
HUF
HUF
I DON'T THINK...
I WANT YOU TO...
...TAKE CARE OF OTSŪ...
TAKEZŌ, IF I DIE...
HUF
HUF
UR
PRROA
...
HUF
HUF
A SURVIVOR...

!!
TAKE A LOAD OF THIS.
SPLORSH
GIVE ME A BREAK.
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME TWICE, YOU JERK.
HU-HUF
HUF
HUF HUF...
HAD ENOUGH?
ARRGH
FWISH
KRICK
HUH?

!!
HAHH!
FWIP
!!

SHOOM
HUF
HUF
FLASH
!!
!
UR...
THE REAL THING!
TAKEZŌ!
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
REFUGEE HUNTERS!
YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
FWUP
FWU
...

URR
...
URR
...

...IS STRONG!
THIS KID...
URR
IF YOU'RE GONNA TRY TO KILL ME...
...I'M GONNA KILL YOU.

FWAK
!!
HAHH!
WHUMP!
ARGH!

SKRNCH
!!
GAK!
UH--
--OH.

KRICH
FWOOP
OOP!
SHIFF
ARGH!
SHIFF

GULP
KRAK

FWOOSH

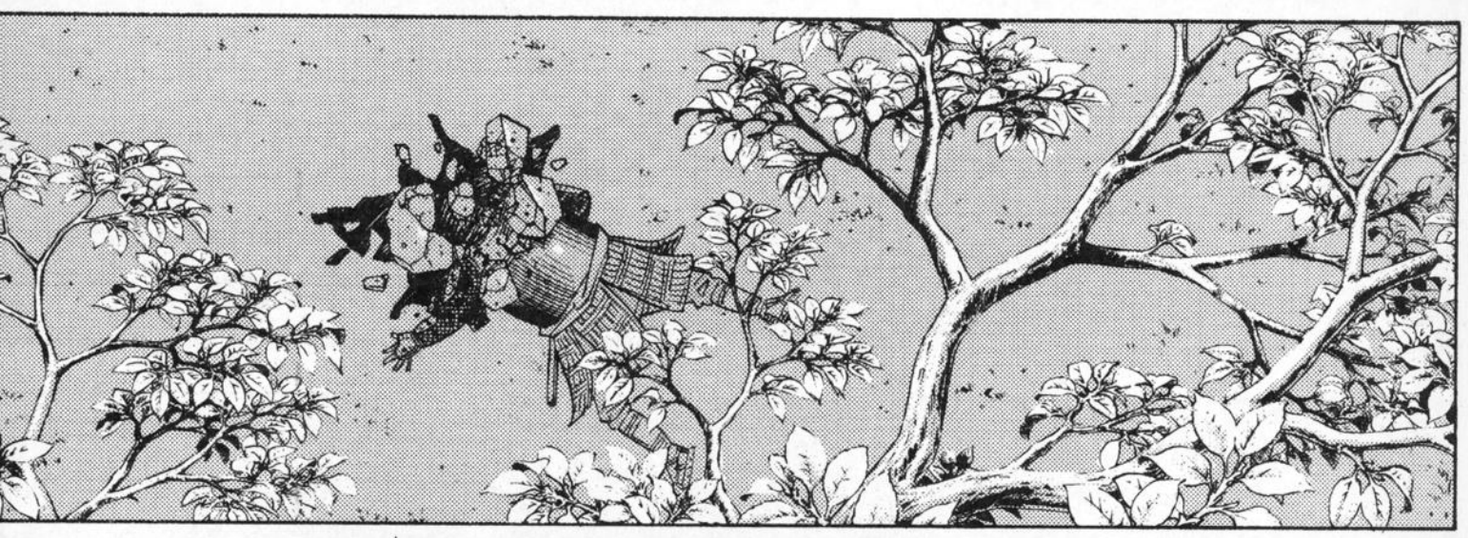
THWOKK

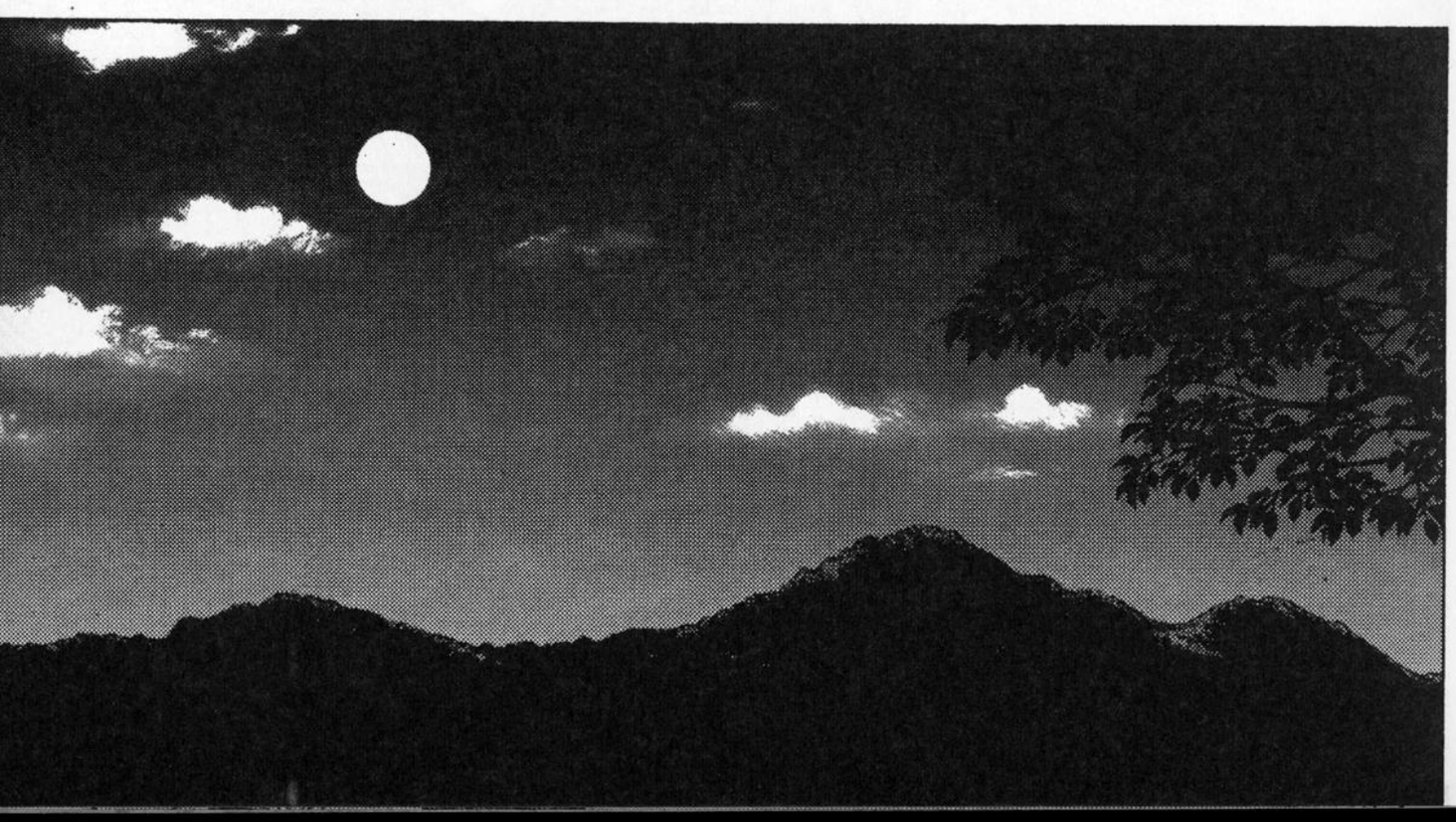
GAK
GAK
OH...
ZHOOSH

PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
FWUP
FWU

AHH...
UHH...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF



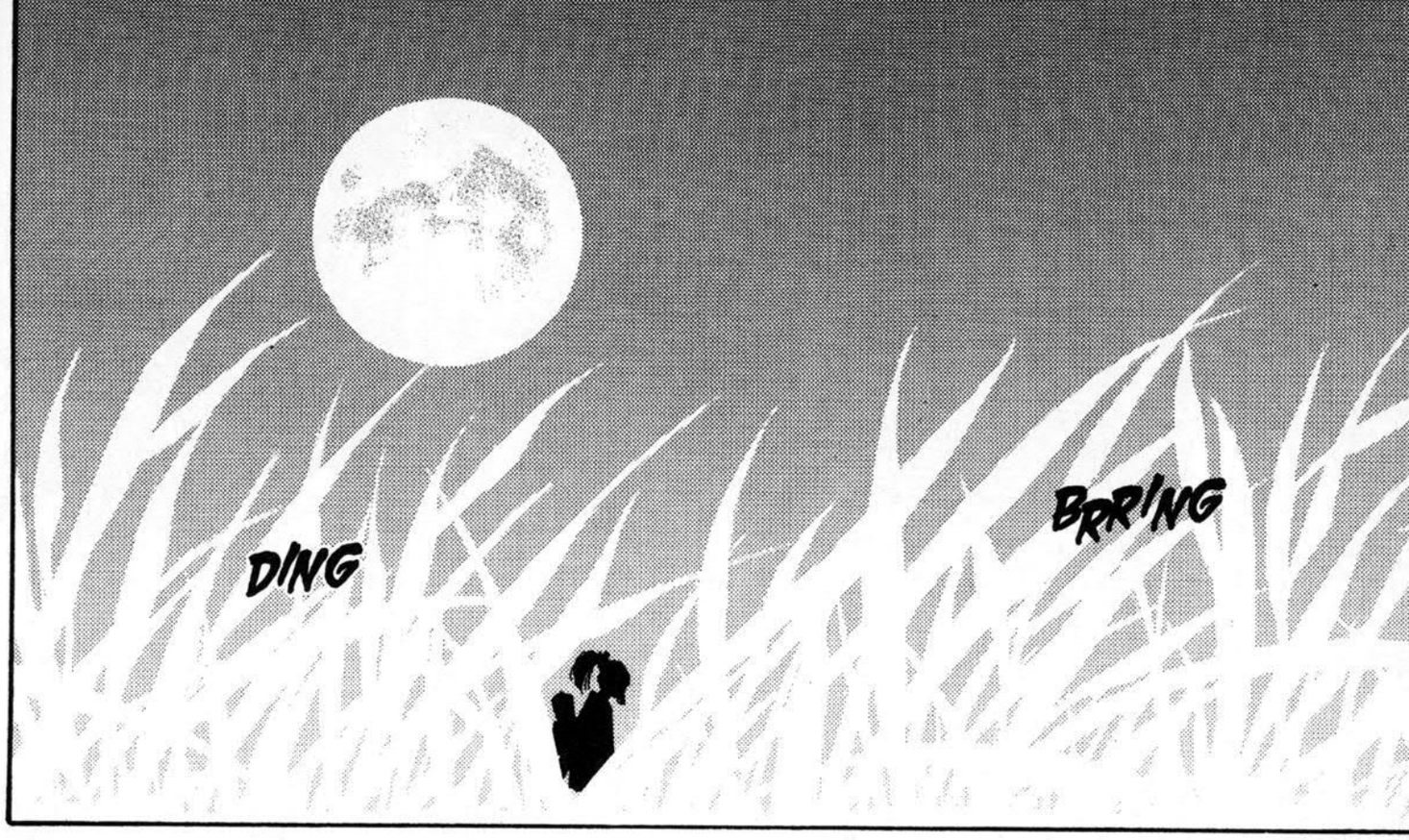


HUF
HUF
HUF
THOSE DAMN SAMURAI!
HUF
NO WAY I'M GONNA DIE.
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
PLISH
PLISH
HUF
HUF
NOT ME...
HUF
HUF
PLISH

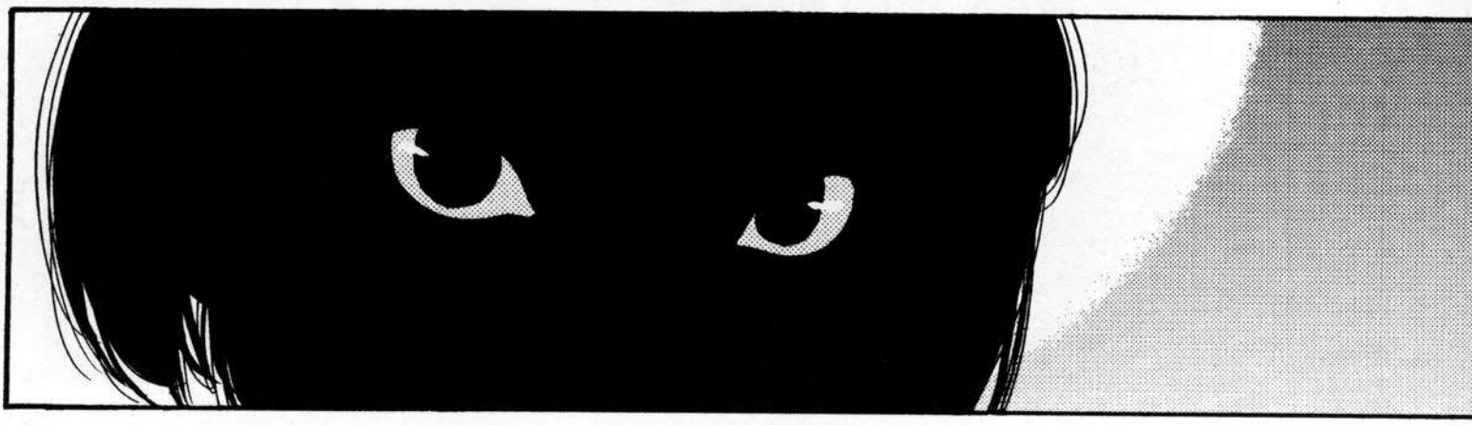
I'M...
HUF
HUF
SHINMEN TAKEZŌ!
HUF
...
TUGG
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

NO WAY I'M GONNA DIE!
I'M HON'IDEN MATAHACHI!!

HEY.
FWOOP
WE'RE GONNA MAKE NAMES FOR OUR-SELVES.
YUP.
MATA-HACHI.
HEY...
MATA-HACHI...
HEY...


DING
BRRING

DING



HUF
HUF
HUF
SHUF
SHUF

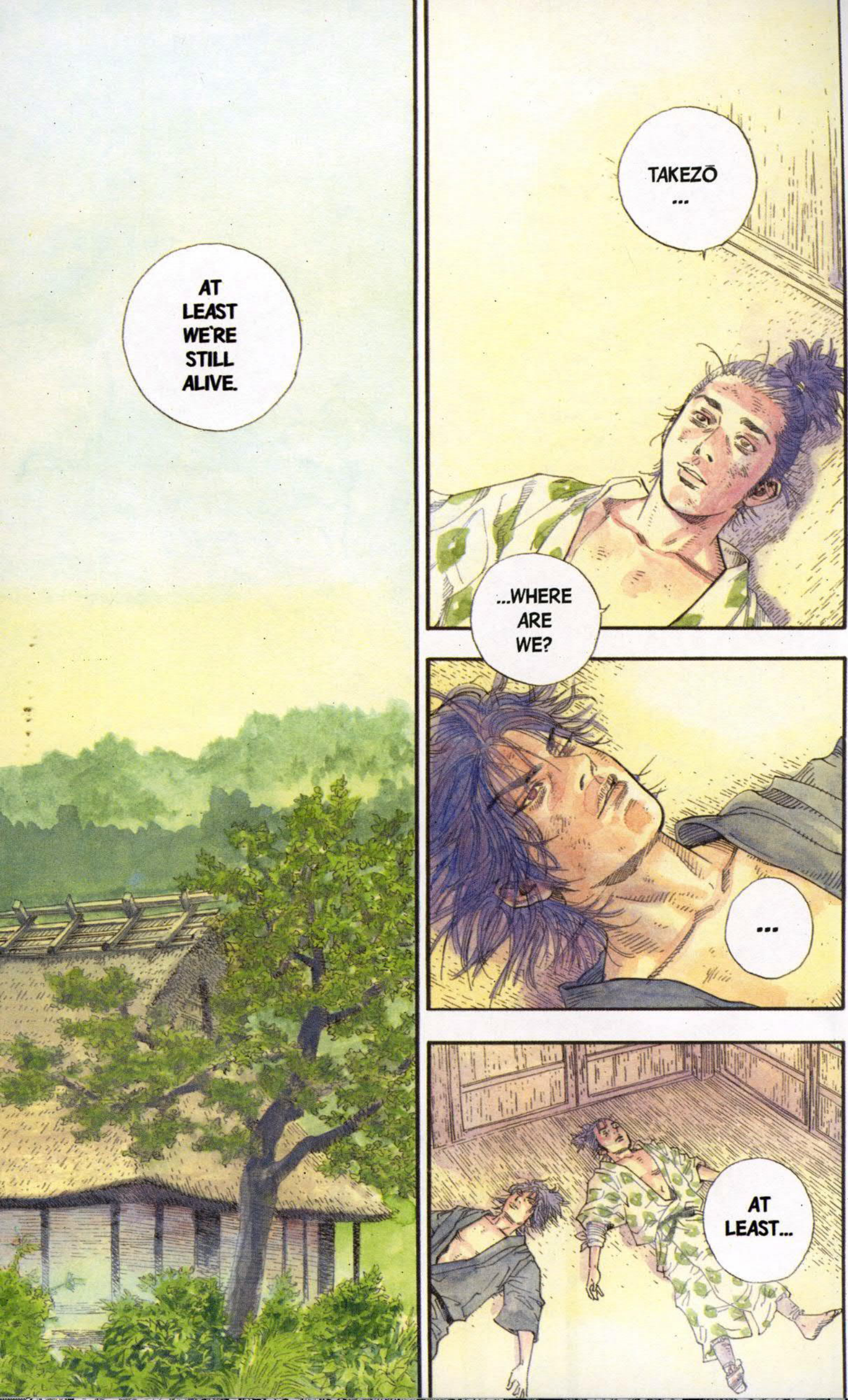
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO SIGN OF ANY VILLAGES.
THIS AREA'S SPRAWLED WITH CORPSES ...
...FROM THE BATTLE TWO DAYS AGO...
HUF
HUF
HUF

FOOP
UR...
HUF
HUF
HUF
FOOP
HUF
URR...
URR...
HUF
HUF
HUF

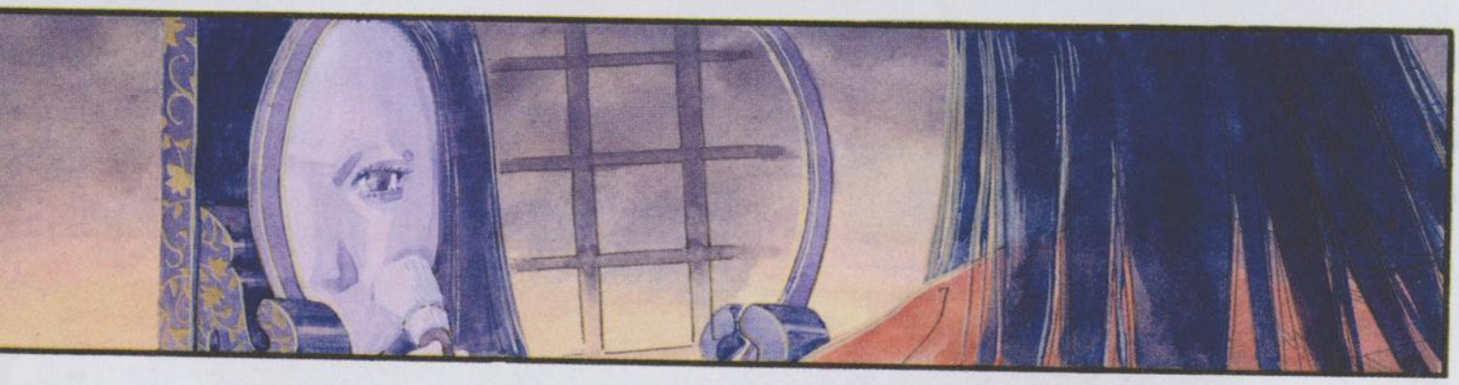
SOME-
THING'S
WRONG
WITH ME
...
...TOO.
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
BRR
BRR
TWITCH
AHUK!
PLISH
DING
SOMEONE'S
THERE.
ANOTHER
BANDIT?

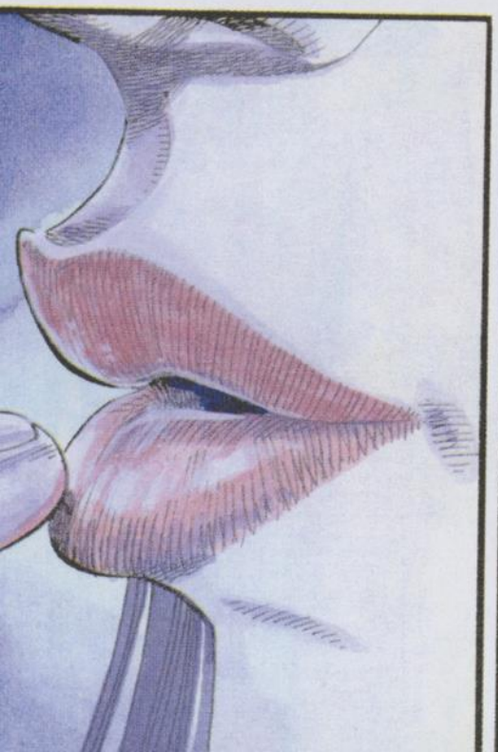
Vagabond

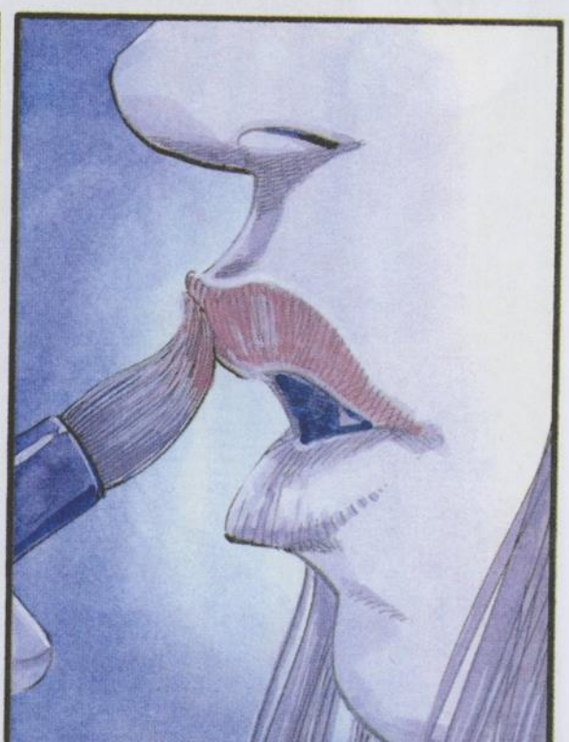
(TAKEZŌ)

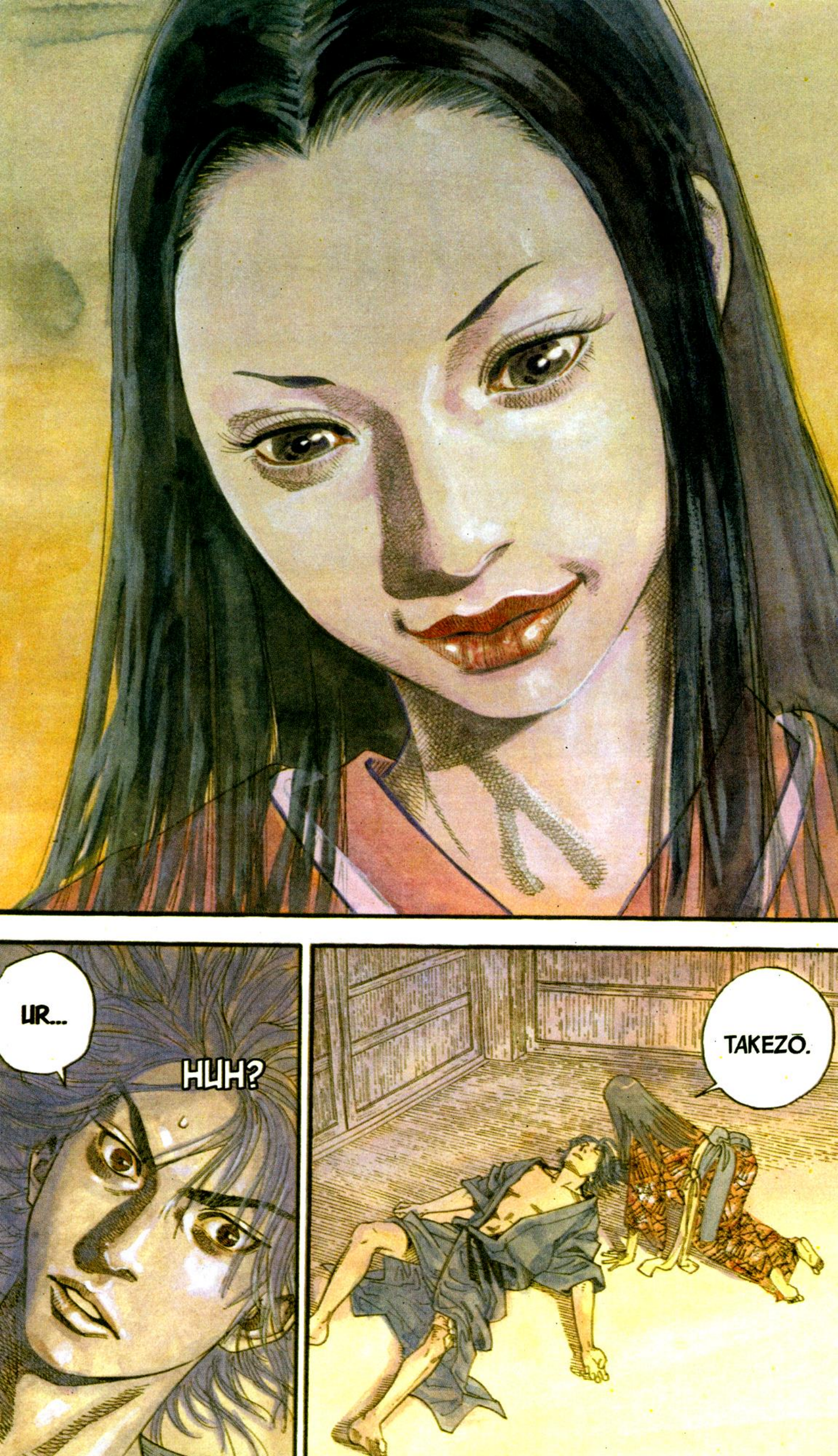

AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE.
TAKEZŌ ...
...WHERE ARE WE?
...
AT LEAST...

#2 | Akemi



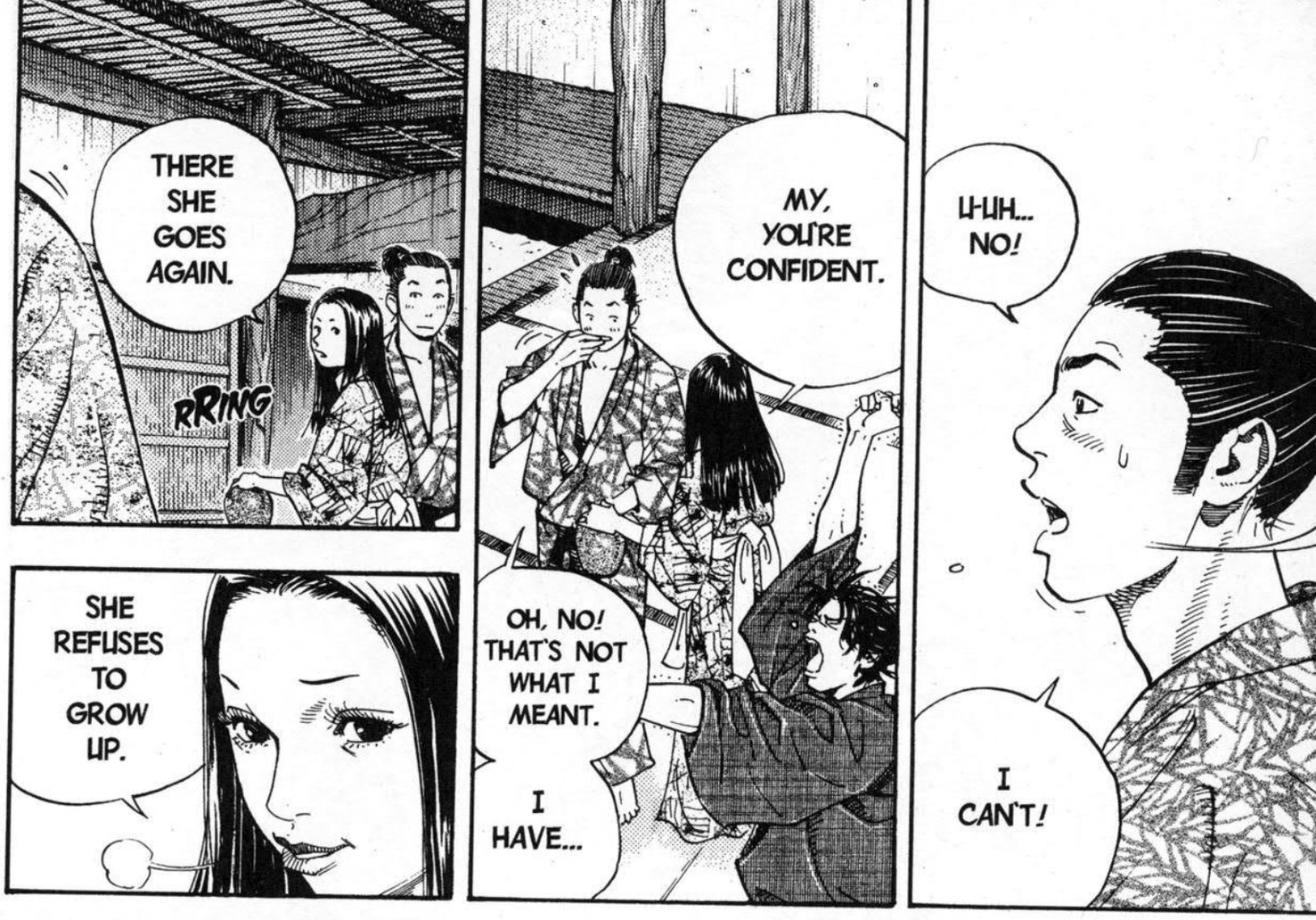


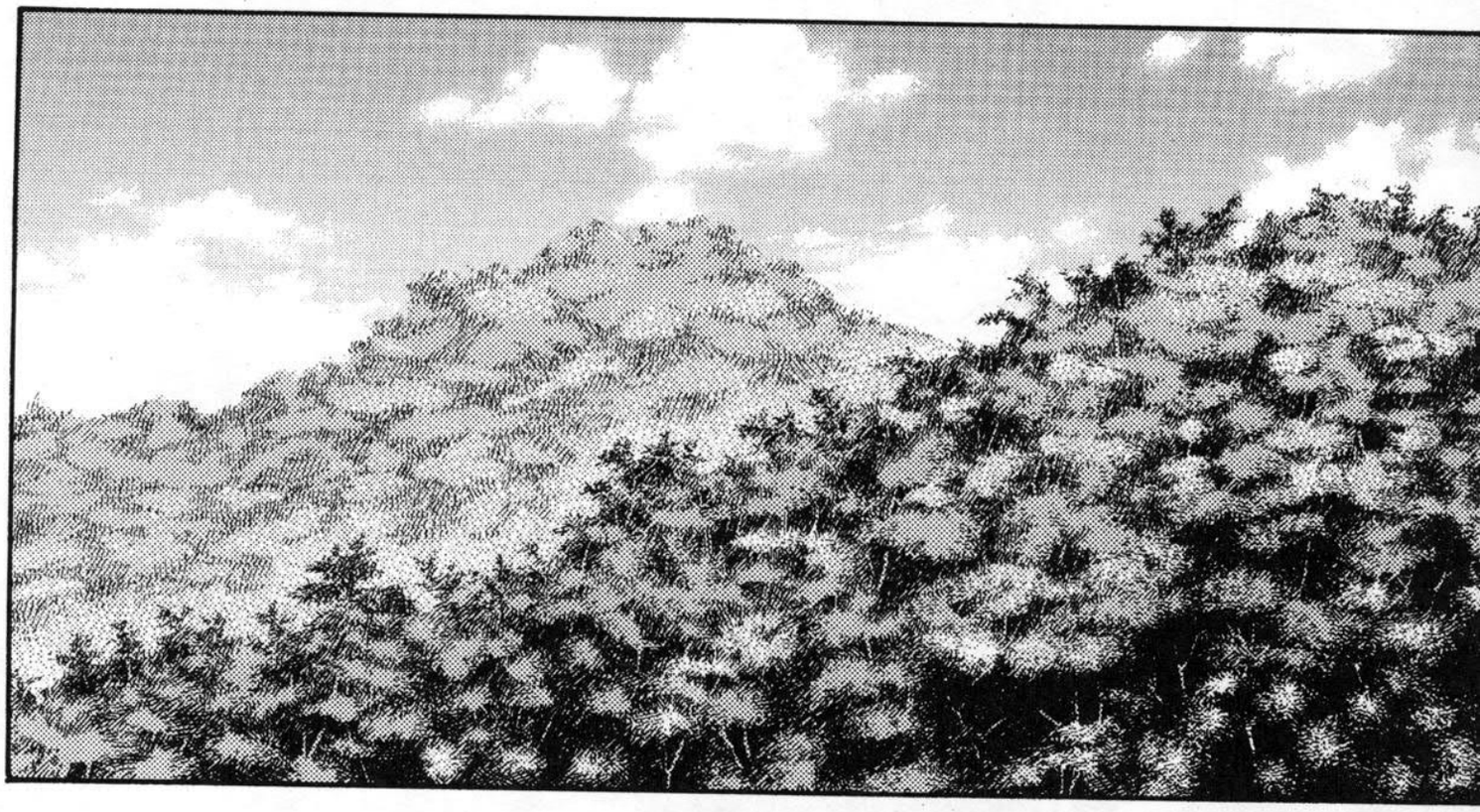



UR...
HUH?
TAKEZŌ.

TAKEZŌ!
WHAT'S WITH THE "UR"!?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER.
...
COME ON, HAVE A DRINK!!
YOU IDIOT!
WE'RE HEALED.
WE'RE GOING, MATAHACHI.

RING
DRRING
WE HAVE TO THANK THEM BEFORE WE LEAVE!!
RING
NOT ONLY DID THEY SAVE US, THEY GAVE US SHELTER FOR DAYS...
AND WE'RE FUGITIVES.
HA HA...
YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU PLEASE, TAKEZŌ.
I HEARD THAT THEY'RE STILL CRACKING DOWN ON FUGITIVE SOLDIERS...
...BECAUSE ALL THE GENERALS OF THE WEST HAVEN'T BEEN CAPTURED YET.
ONE OF YOU SHOULD MARRY AKEMI AND STAY HERE FOR GOOD.
WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER, AKEMI?


THERE SHE GOES AGAIN.
RRING
MY, YOU'RE CONFIDENT.
LI-LIH... NO!
SHE REFUSES TO GROW UP.
OH, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I HAVE...
I CAN'T!



...

FP
FP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FWIP
FWIP
CRIMSON MUSH-ROOM.
YOU TRYING TO KILL US...
...TAKEZŌ ?
OH.
FWIP
PANTHER MUSH-ROOM.
POISON-OUS...
FWIP
LETHAL...

...

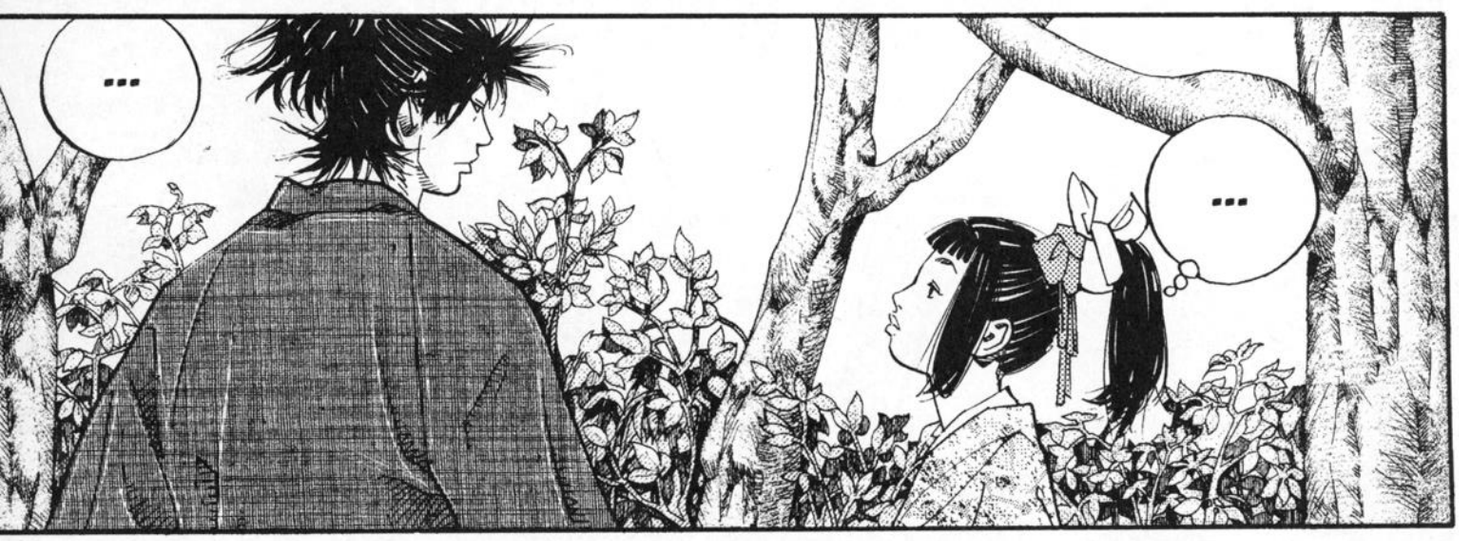
WHY DON'T *YOU* ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS ?

HOW WE MAKE A LIVING.

HM?
ABOUT WHAT?

WHY I LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH MY MOTHER.
MY AGE.
WHY I WEAR THESE BELLS.
WHERE MY FATHER IS.
...

MATA-HACHI'S BEEN ASKING YOU QUESTIONS.
I SEE.
RELENT-LESSLY.
EVERY DAY...


...
...

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
...

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
SHUT UP.
...
KINDA SMALL FOR YOUR AGE.
15!!

17.

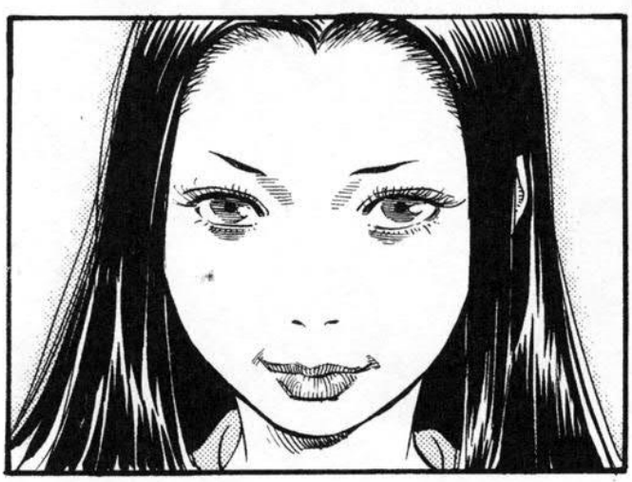
ANYTHING ELSE?
...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE LIKE 30.
...!!

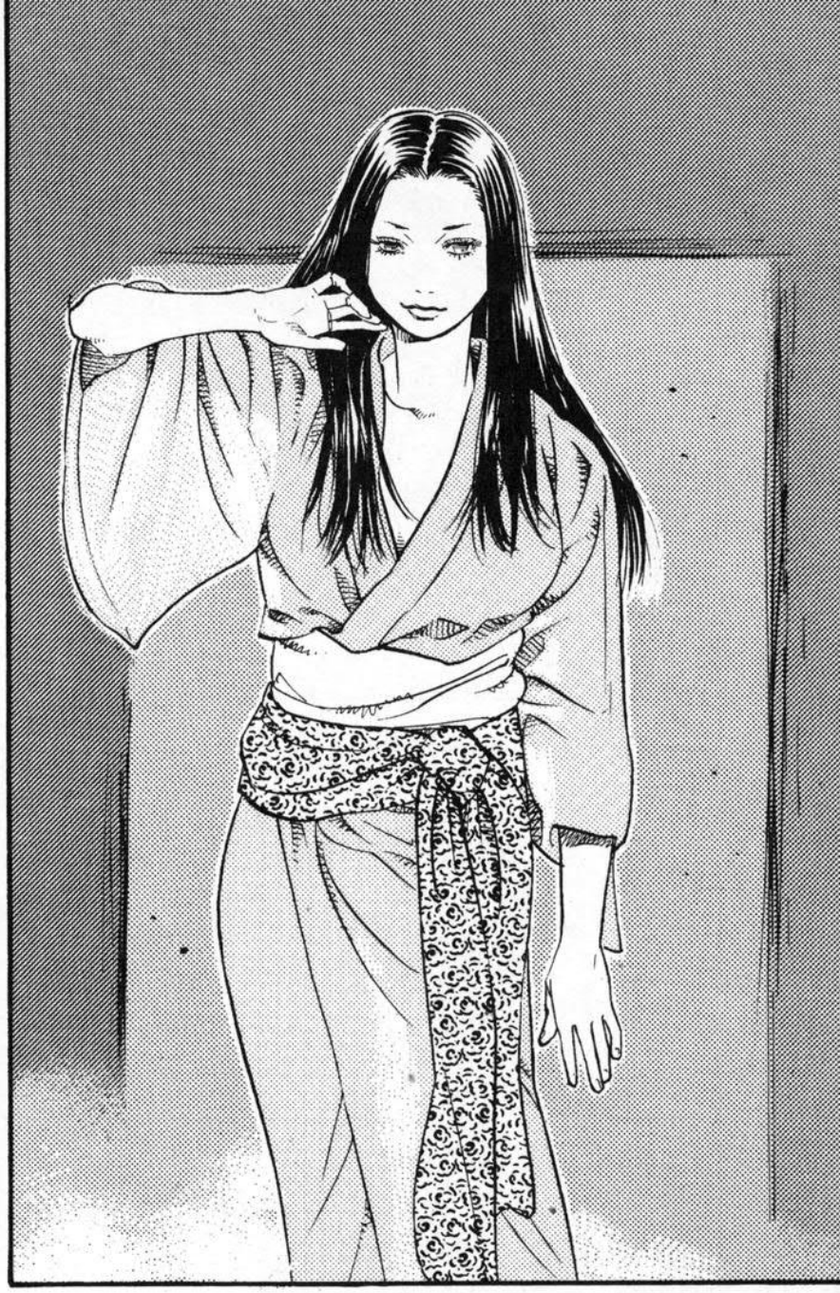
WHAT WERE YOU DOING...
...
...THAT NIGHT YOU RESCUED US...?

RRING
...IN THAT AREA FULL OF CORPSES?

SWORDS?
...?
FWUDD
KRASH
OOPS!
WHAT ARE ALL THESE SWORDS ...
...DOING HERE?
WHAT'S THIS?
!!
THERE'S SO MANY...
YOU FOUND THEM.

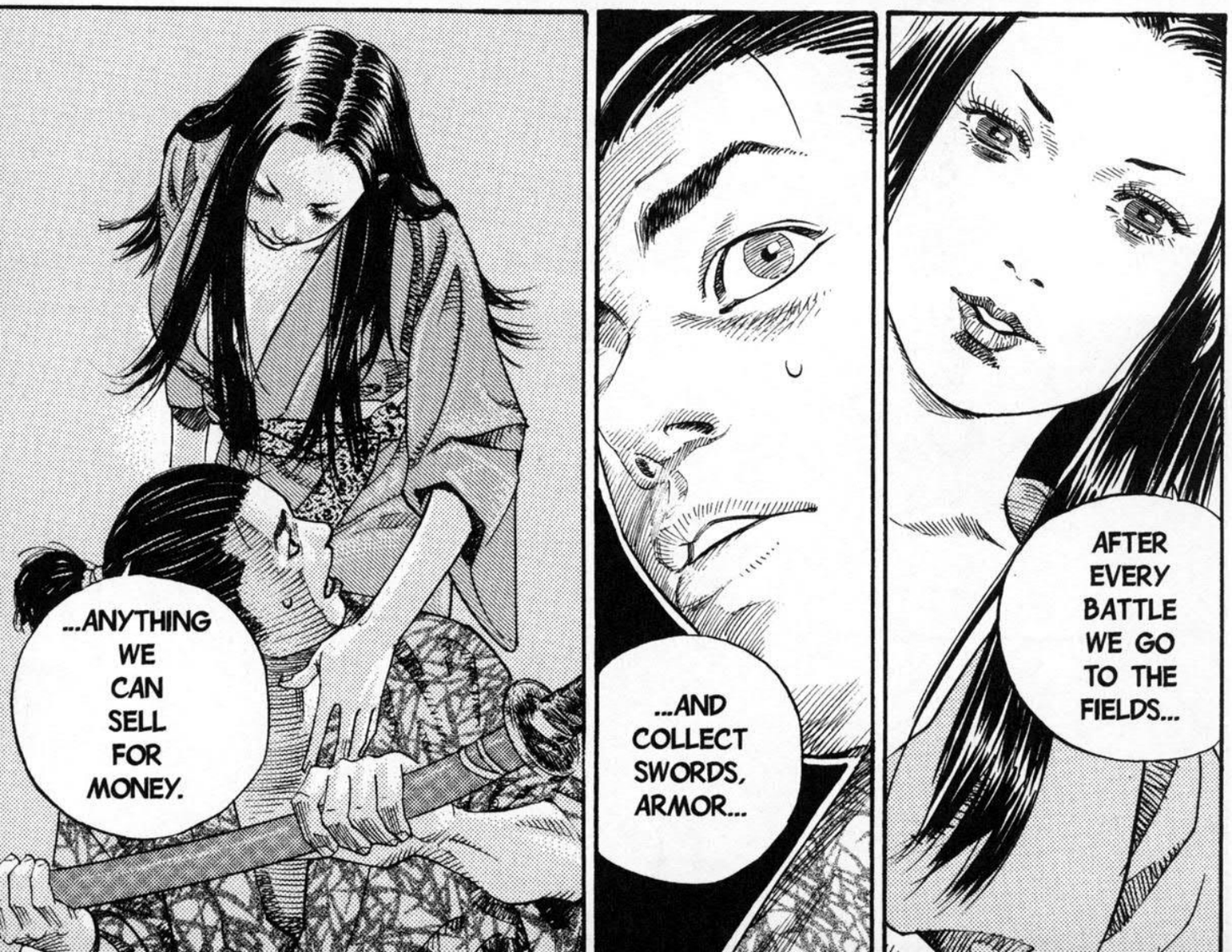
OKŌ!

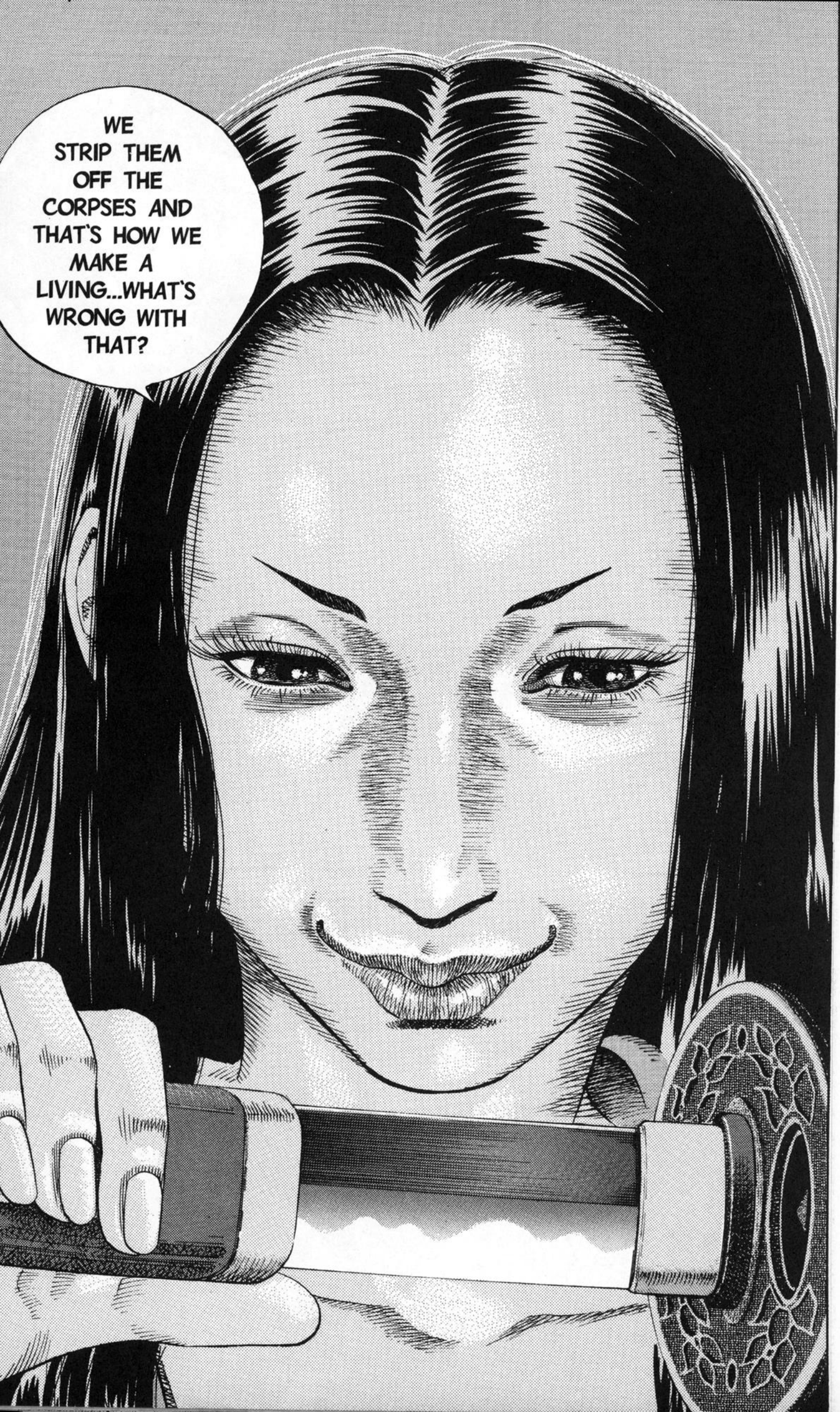




WE'RE THIEVES.

THIEVES...

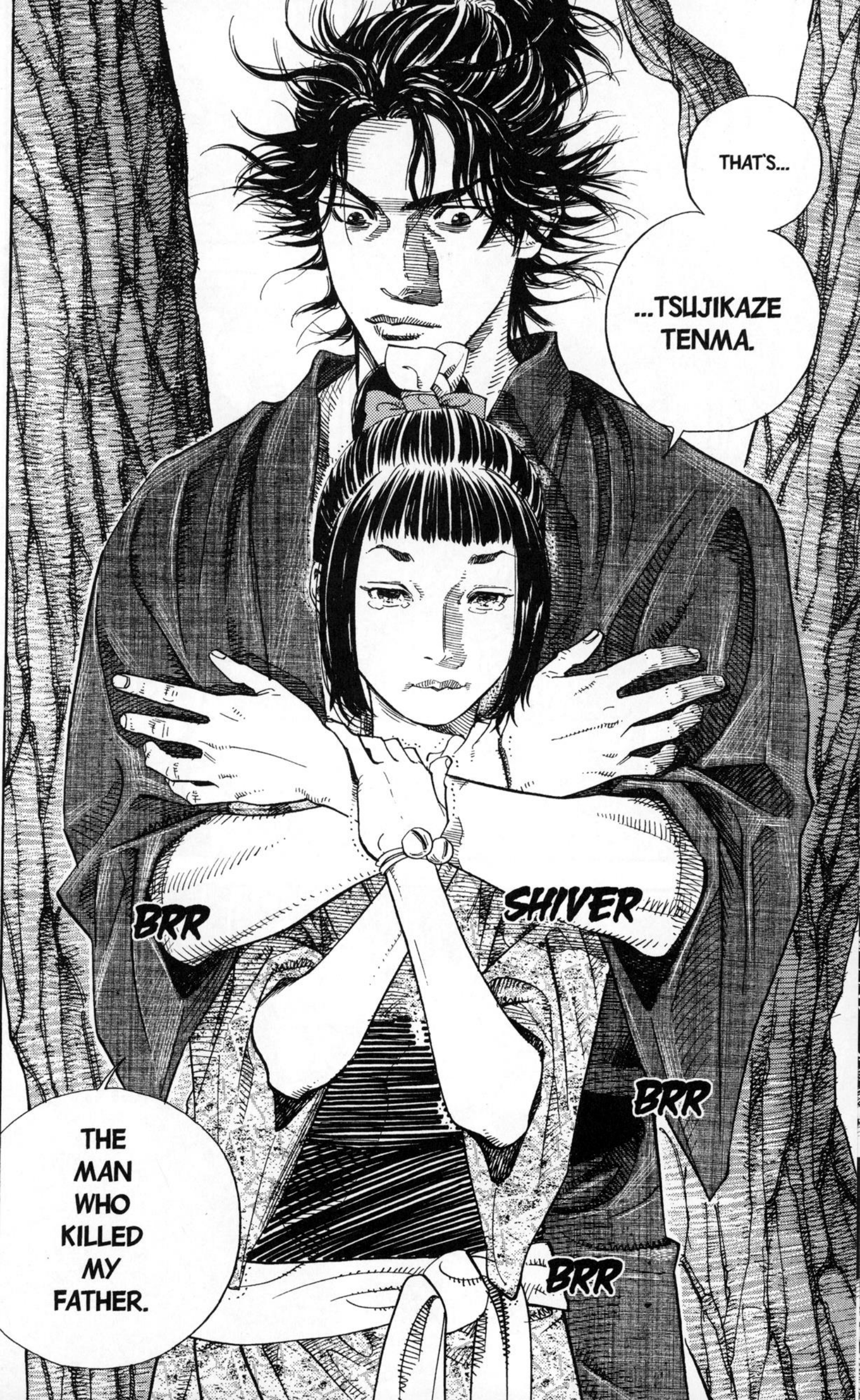

...ANYTHING WE CAN SELL FOR MONEY.
...AND COLLECT SWORDS, ARMOR...
AFTER EVERY BATTLE WE GO TO THE FIELDS...


WE STRIP THEM OFF THE CORPSES AND THAT'S HOW WE MAKE A LIVING...WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ?
...WHO'S THAT?

HM?
TUP
TUP
TUP
AKEMI...

STOP.
...
BRR
BRR
...
BRR
BRR
SHIVER


THAT'S...
...TSUJIKAZE TENMA.
BRR
SHIVER
BRR
BRR
THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER.

Vagabond

(DRINK UP!)

AKEMI!!

YOU WENT TO SEKIGAHARA AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU!?
THE TSUJIKAZE GANG WON'T PUT UP WITH THIS SORT OF CRAP!!
YOU TELL OKŌ THAT I'M WARNING HER...!

#3 Okō

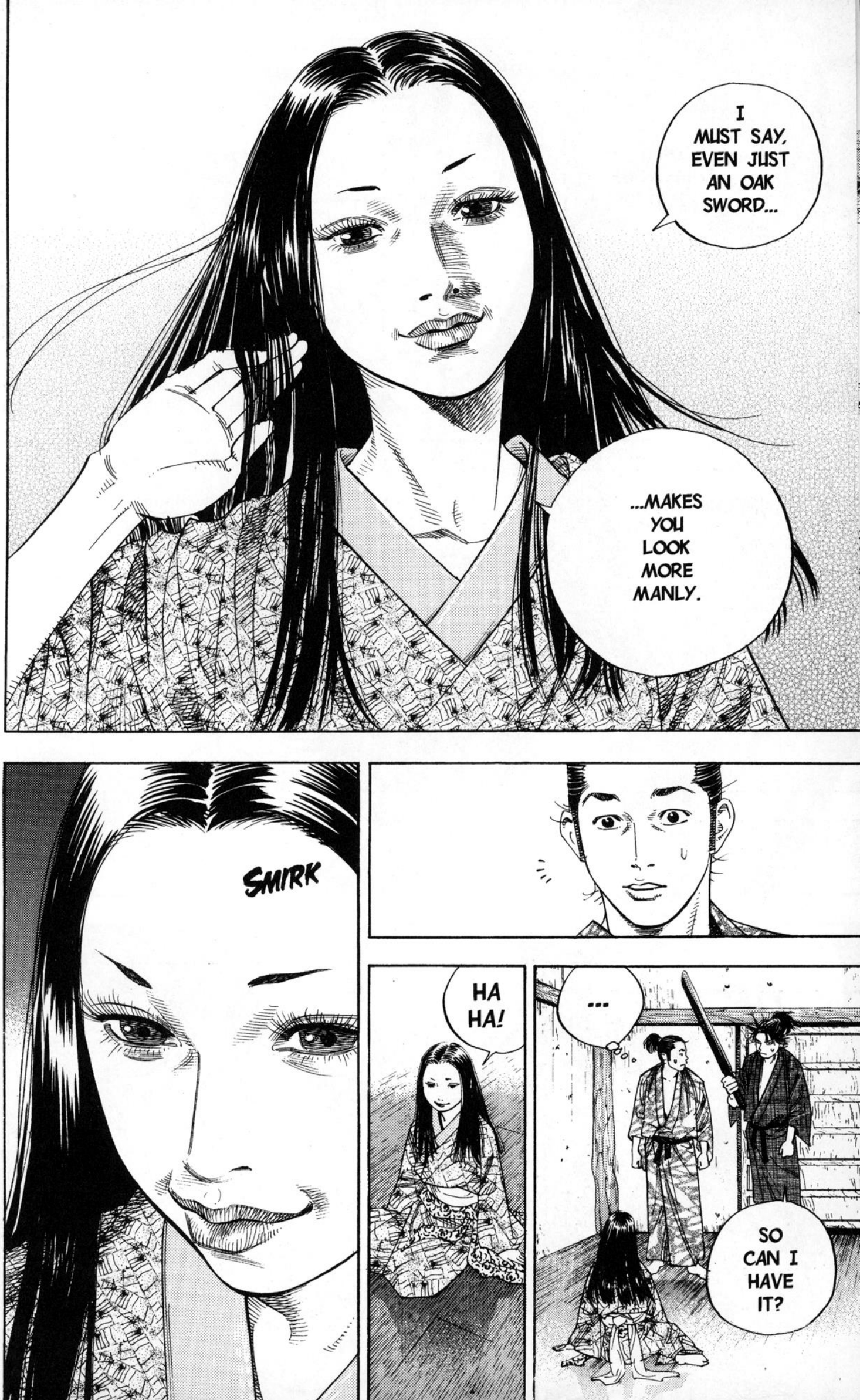
HE-Y!!
IS THAT ALL OF IT?
THERE'S MORE!!
ALL RIGHT.
AKEMI!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER...?
...
AMAZING...
...ALL OF THIS STOLEN FROM BATTLE-FIELDS.

THAT SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO FOOL TENMA.
WHAT A COLLECTION ...
PHEW
THAT'S MOST OF IT.
HM?
...
DID WE FORGET THAT ONE?
...

FUGA

...

HUH?
TAKE IT EASY, TAKEZŌ...
...TAKEZŌ?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THAT...
!
YUP.
I WANT IT.


I MUST SAY, EVEN JUST AN OAK SWORD...
...MAKES YOU LOOK MORE MANLY.
SMIRK
HA HA!
...
SO CAN I HAVE IT?

I WANT SOMETHING TOO!
OH?
I...
...
AND WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE!
TAKEZŌ!!

...
COME ON, TAKEZŌ.
BE A MAN AND DRINK SOME SAKE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE. ARE YOU, TAKEZŌ?
I DON'T WANT ANY SAKE.
WE'RE GOING HOME TO THE VILLAGE OF MIYAMOTO IN SAKUSHŪ.

HMPH!
I HAVE A FIANCÉE BACK HOME.
I'M A STUD.

WELL, I WON'T STOP YOU IF YOU LEAVE BY YOURSELF.
SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU HERE THEN.

I SEE...

OH?
YOU DO?
HEY ...
GLUG GLUG GLUG

HM?
SHNORR

SHORR
SHORR
OH MY!
TAKEZŌ!
HA HA
YOU'RE PATHETIC!
SHORR
...
...

FATHER...

FATHER...

MOTHER'S GONE.

WHERE'D SHE GO?

YOU'RE NO LONGER TO THINK OF HER...
YOU SISSY...
...AS YOUR MOTHER.
YOU LITTLE BASTARD...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK...

YOU'VE GOT THE EYES OF A BEAST.

!!
FWOOSH

ZING
ZING
URR...

HUH?

TAKEZŌ...

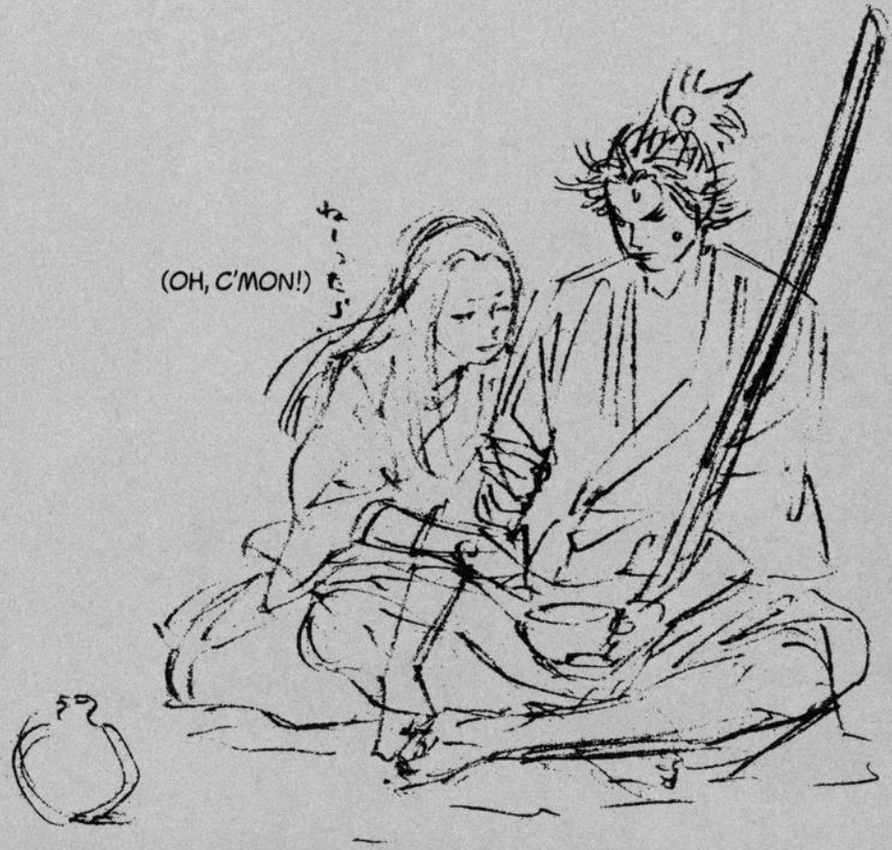
AH.
TAKEZŌ ...
YOU *MUST* KNOW HOW I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT YOU...
WHAT IS IT?
YOU'RE SUCH A BOOR...

CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?
BRR

SHLP
!!
...
HUF
HUF
STOP!
FWOOSH
TAKEZŌ
...

THP
THP
THP
!!
THP
THP
THP
IT'S THE TSUJIKAZE GANG!!
THP

Vagabond


(OH, C'MON!)

TAKEZŌ ...
HOW DARE YOU EMBARRASS ME LIKE THIS...
EM-BARRASS YOU?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
OKŌ ...!
OPEN UP!!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

#4 The Brigand Tsujikaze

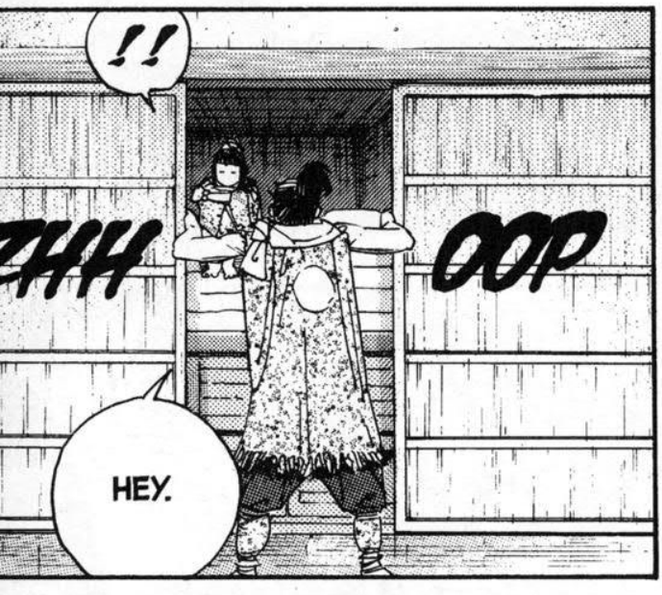
FIND ANYTHING?
NOT YET!
OKŌ!!
WHERE'D YOU HIDE THE STUFF?!
COME ON!!
OKŌ...

HOW ABOUT SOME SAKE?
...GET IT YOURSELF.
YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS...
I *HAVE* TO SEARCH YOUR HOUSE.
EVEN BRIGANDS HAVE THEIR CODE.
I HAVEN'T STOLEN ANYTHING.
HAH...

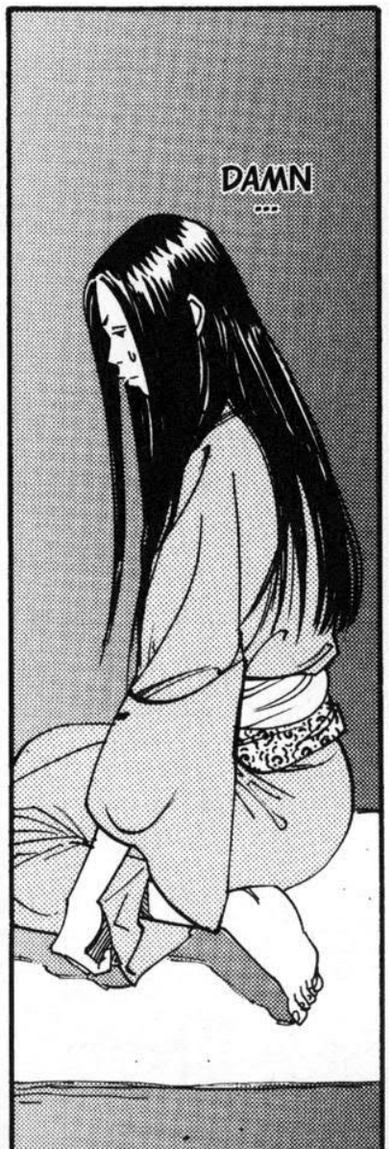
...AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THIS...
YOU BE MINE...
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN ENDS UP WITH HER HUSBAND'S MURDERER?

YOUR FACE...
...MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE.
CHECK THE CEILING.
HEY.
YES SIR!

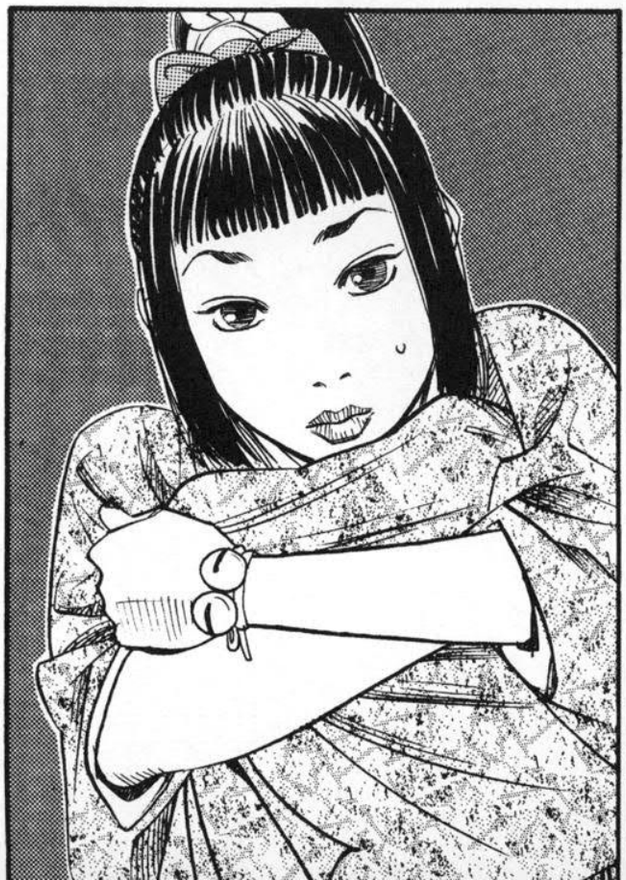
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD


!!
ZHH
OOP
HEY.

UH-OH
IT'S THE KID.


DAMN
...

RAPE HER.



!!

...
YOU'RE A FOOL.

!!

OKŌ...
...
...?
BOSS?
DON'T MESS WITH ME.

KRRSH
!!
ARGH!
HUD

WILD
UR...
FWOOSH

THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
YOU LITTLE TWERP !!
!
KRNCH
TA-
TAKEZŌ !

ARRGH!

...
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
PTU

THWUNK

Vagabond

(RAPE HER!)
(TSUJIKAZE)

...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
I'M GLAD I LEFT MIYAMOTO ...
HUF
YOU MIGHT BE A BRIGAND...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL A GENERAL...

AND I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD.

SMIRK
#5
Blood
Game

ULP
YAHHH!
SLSH

AIEEE
ARGH
YAH!
SLASH
YAHHH!
URGH
YAH!
ARRGH
LET MY GUARD DOWN...
URR
AIEEE

THP
BOSS
!?
!?
!!
ARGH
THK

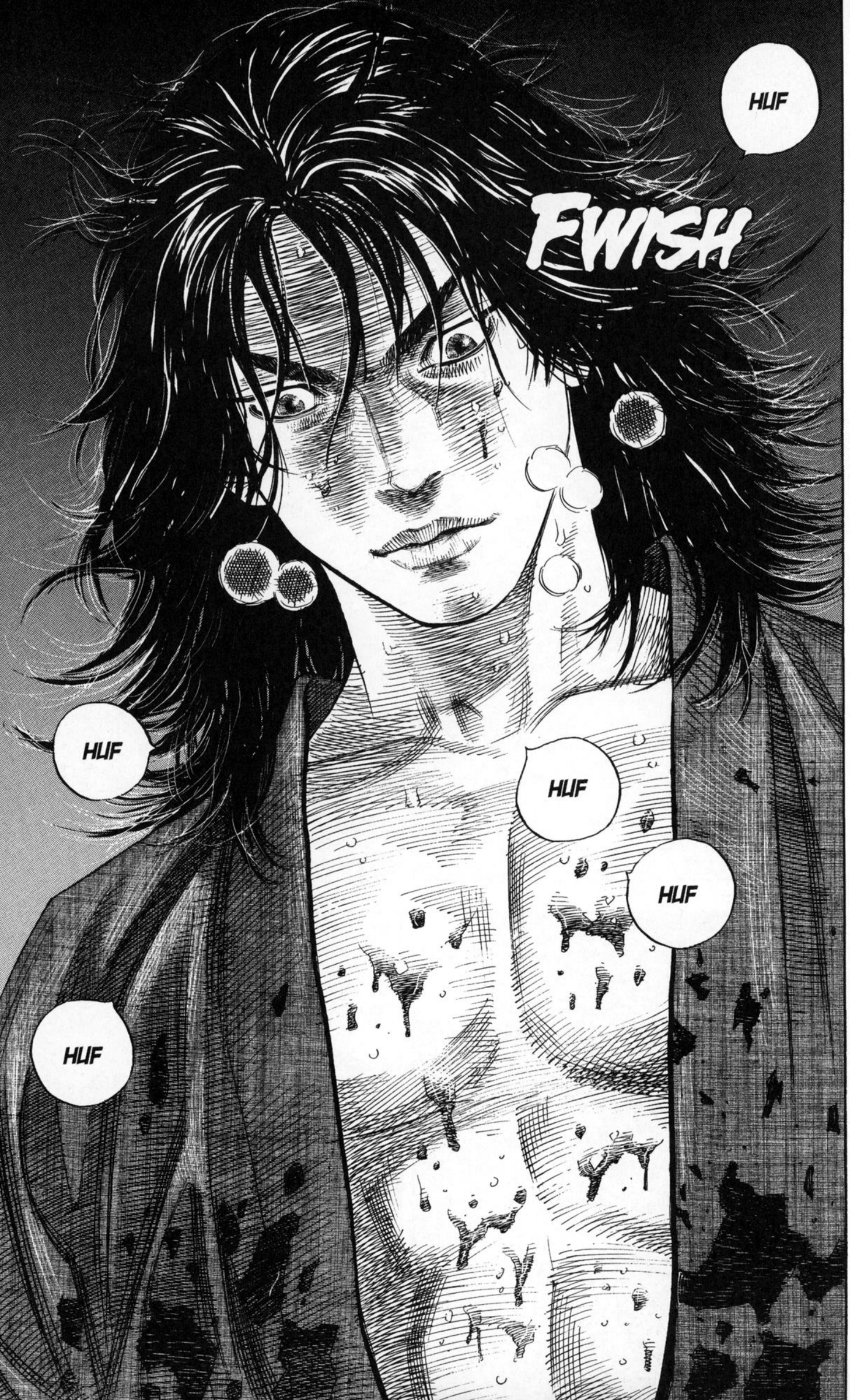
YOU COWARD...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HOW CAN YOU RUN AND STILL CALL YOURSELF THE LEADER!?

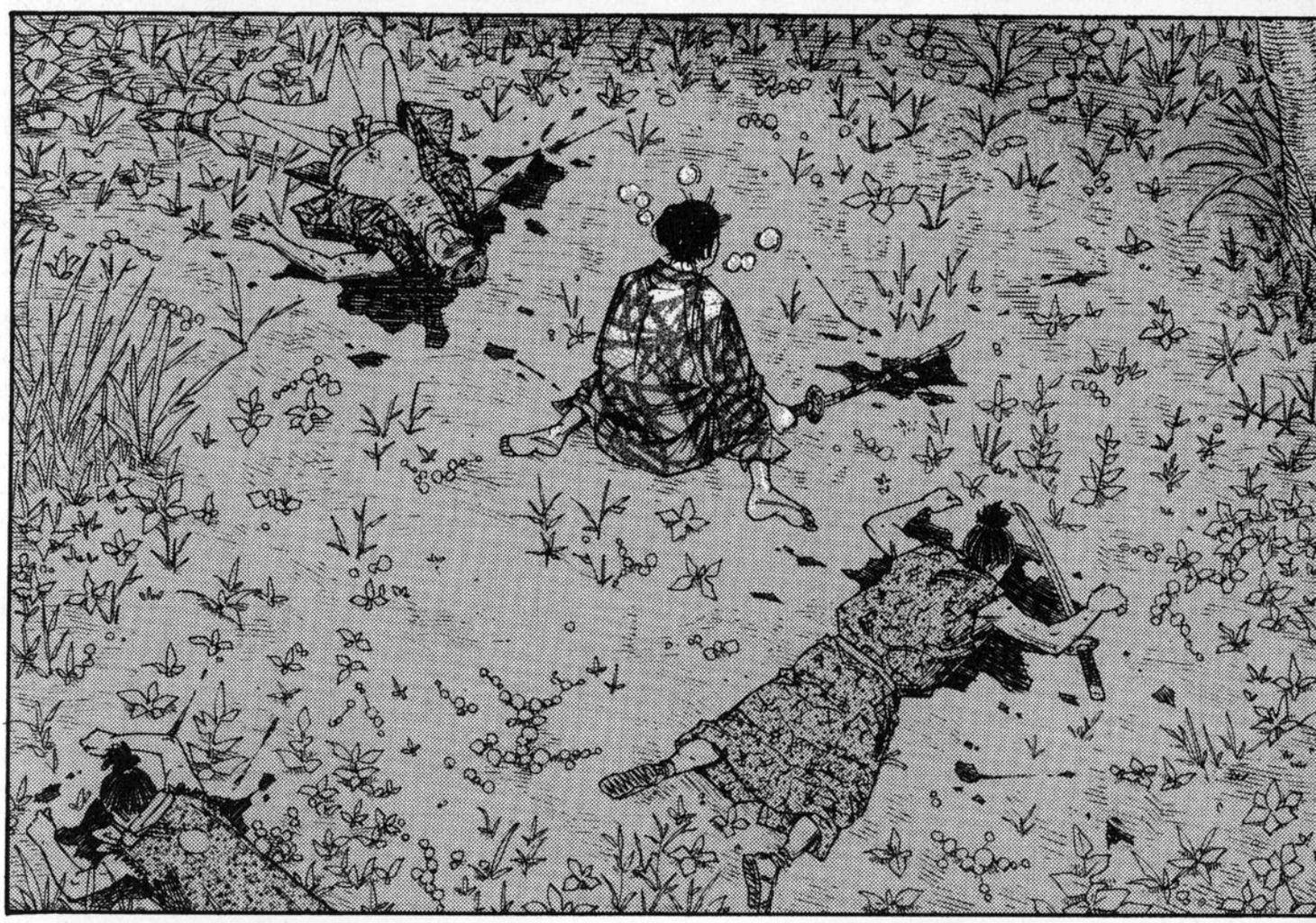
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
RETREAT FOR NOW.
I'LL COME BACK PREPARED.
HUF
I WAS CARELESS 'CAUSE HE'S JUST A KID.
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HIS EYES... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LOOK LIKE THAT.
HUF
HUF
...OR A BEAST!
HUF
LIKE A DEVIL...
HUF

KEWAKK
KRAKK
KRAKK
KRAKK
KRAKK
KRAKK
KRAKK
THWOK

KRAK!
HUF
HUF
HUF


HUF
FWISH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF



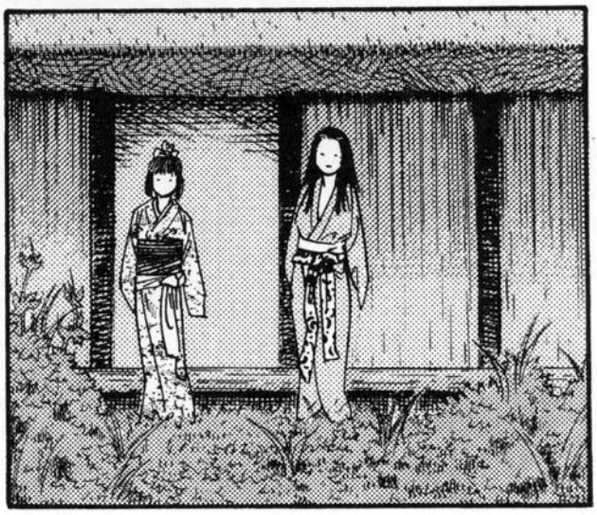
TAKEZŌ
...

FIP
FREE-BOOTERS ARE WEAKLINGS!
HOW WAS THE BOSS?

NOTHING SPECIAL.
...FROM THE VILLAGE OF MIYAMOTO IN SAKUSHŪ.
...AND SHINMEN TAKEZŌ...
HON'IDEN MATAHACHI ...

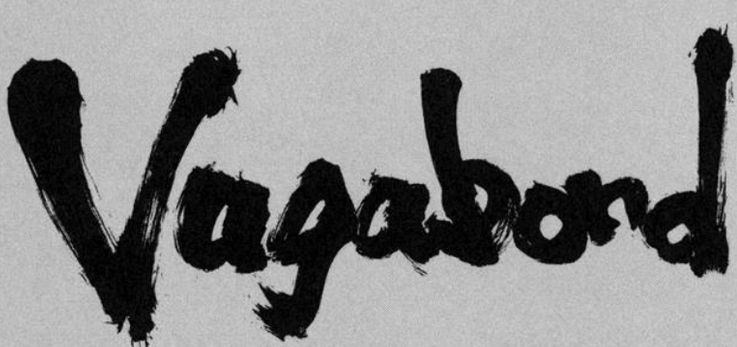
WE'LL TAKE ANYONE ON!!

HA HA HA
...PLAYING A GAME OF BLOOD.



THEY'RE LIKE KIDS...

WE'RE LEAVING.
WHAT WILL YOU TWO DO?
HUH?
YEAHH
WE CUT DOWN FOUR MEN!!
BY WHO?
...TO AVOID GETTING KILLED.
WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HERE NOW...
TSUJIKAZE KŌHEI.


Vagabond

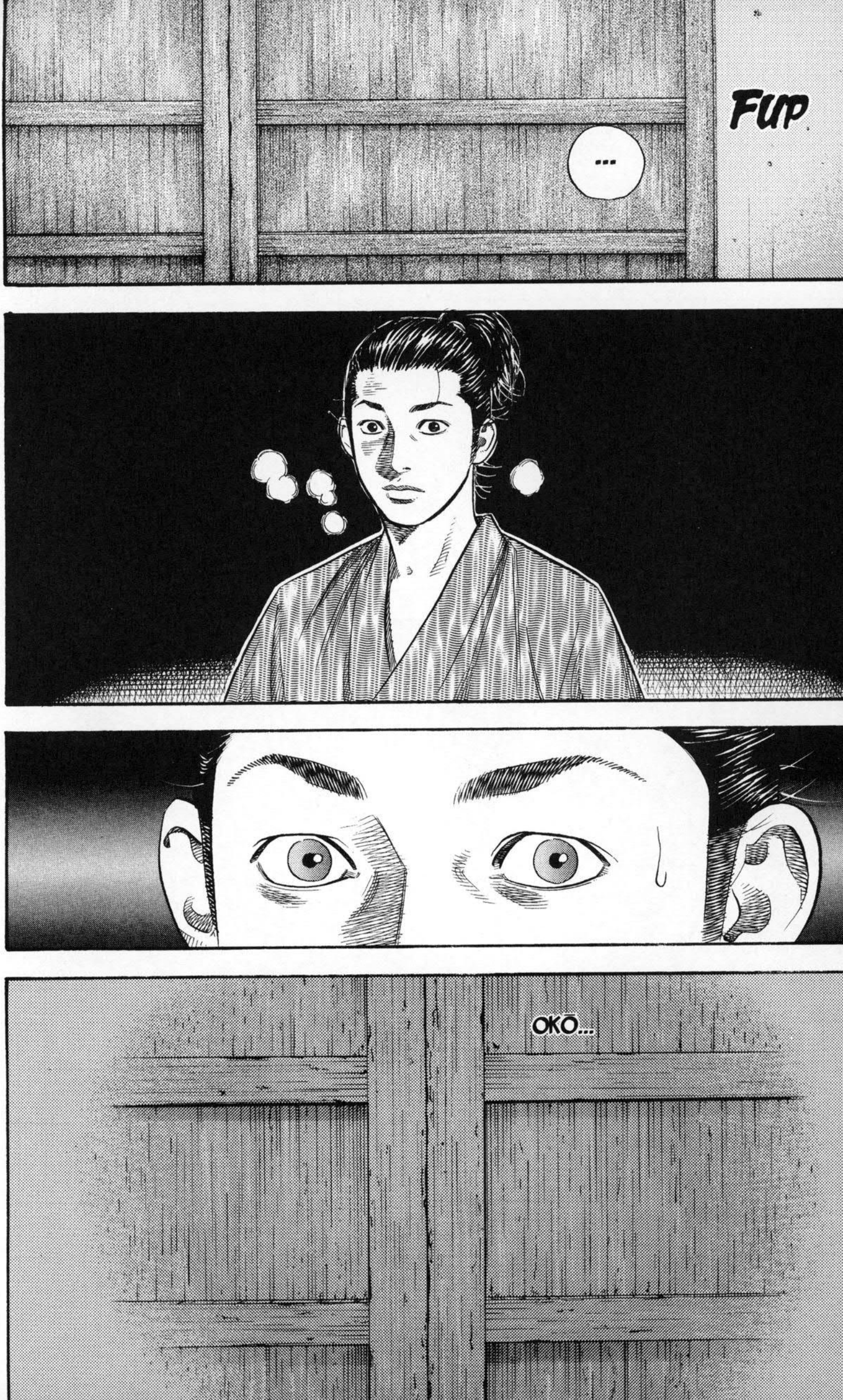
(YAAH!)

HMMM...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SLEEP...?
FWEE
FWEE
SHMP
...
HMPH... I'LL TAKE HIM ON!
TSUJIKAZE KŌHEI...?
TENMA'S YOUNGER BROTHER?
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...
I KILLED SOMEONE

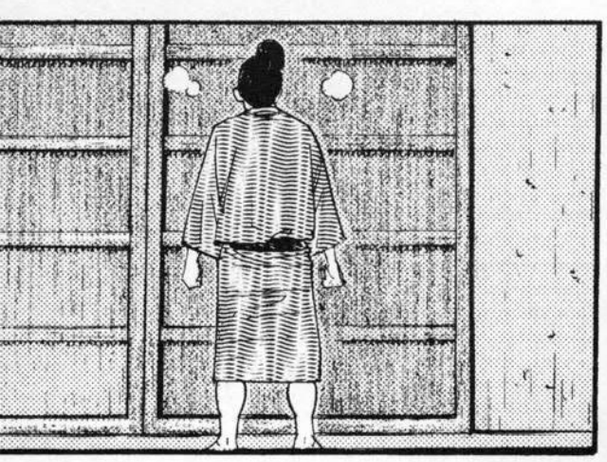
#6

The Troubles of Hon'iden Matahachi at Seventeen

17 YEARS OLD...
NOW...
...I'M A MAN!


FUP
...
OKŌ...

OKŌ
...!!



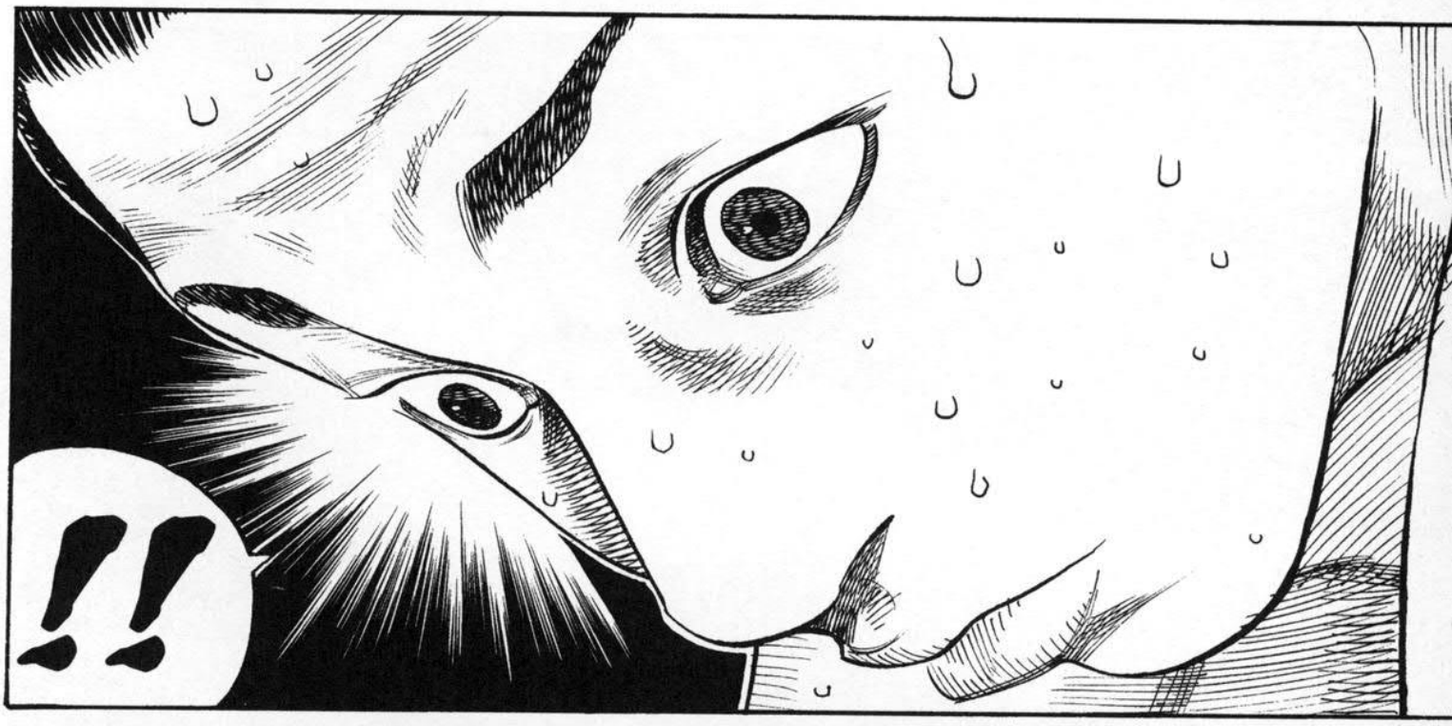
...

FOOP

I
WANT
YOU...

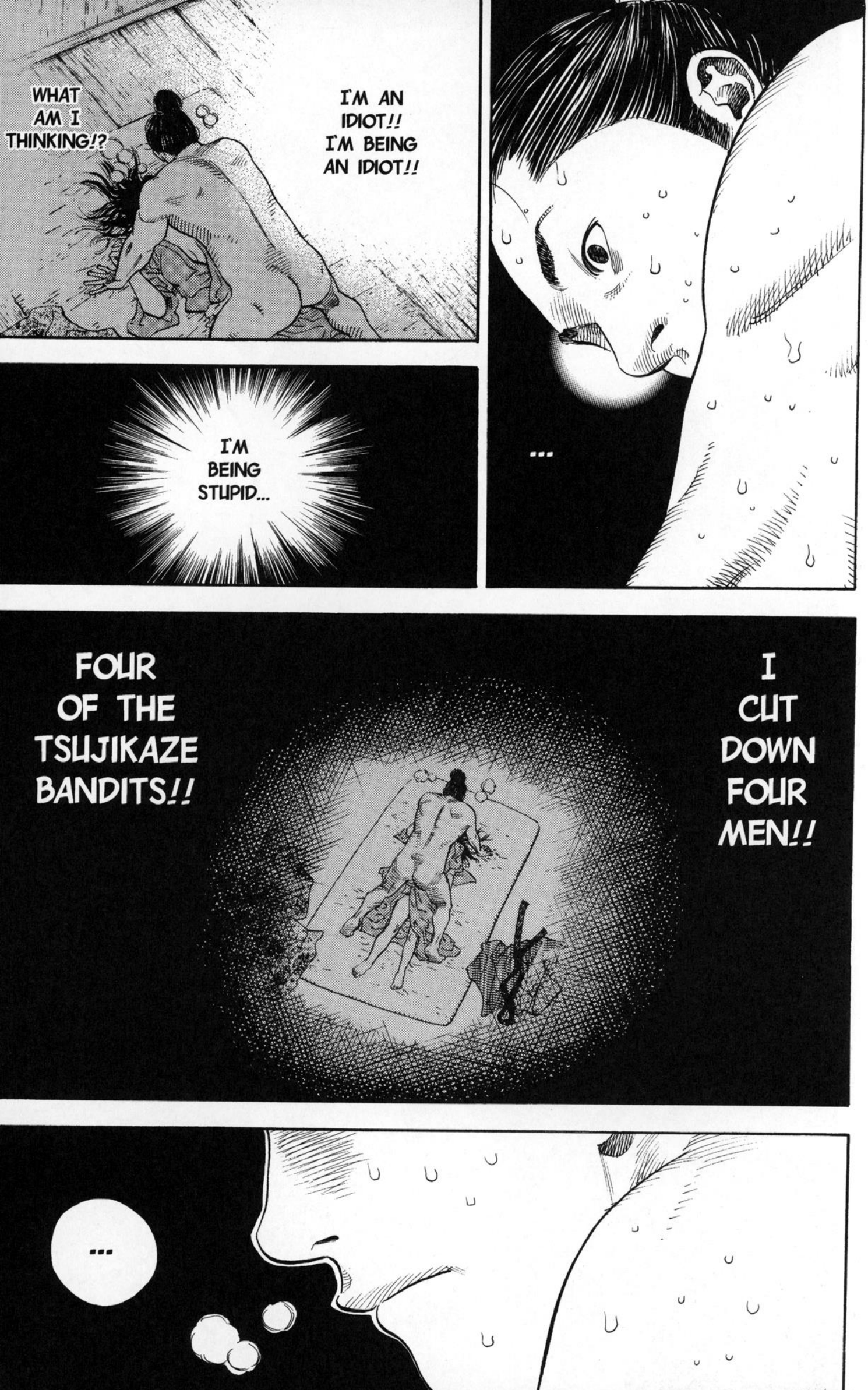
...!!
OKŌ...!!
...

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?


!!

DOES SHE MEAN TAKEZO OR ME?
UR...!! WHICH ONE?

...DOES THAT MEAN SHE WANTS ONE INSTEAD OF THE OTHER...IS THAT IT!?
"WHICH ONE?"...

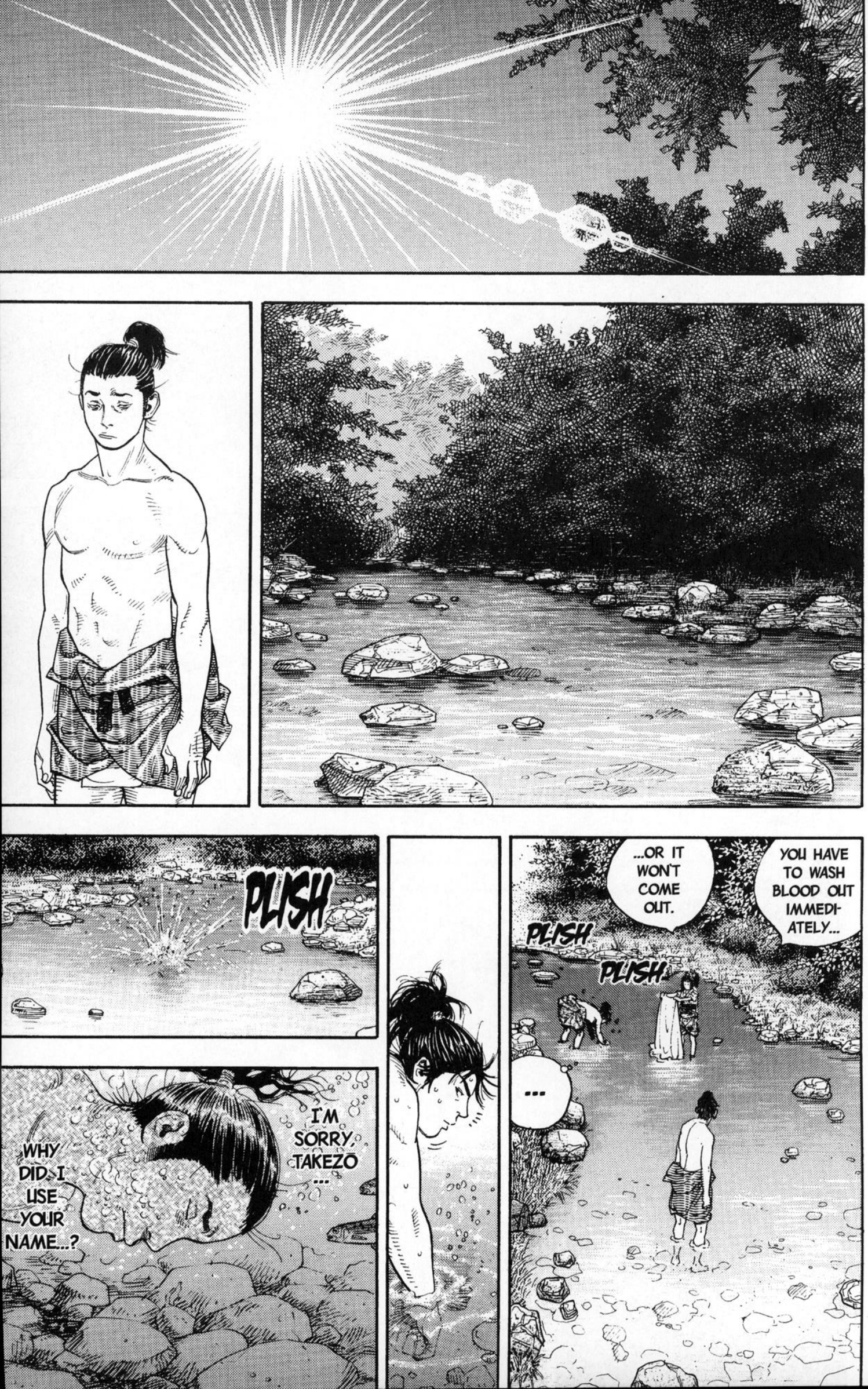

WHAT AM I THINKING!?
I'M AN IDIOT!! I'M BEING AN IDIOT!!
...
I'M BEING STUPID...
FOUR OF THE TSUJIKAZE BANDITS!!
I CUT DOWN FOUR MEN!!
...

IT'S ME, TAKEZŌ...

...
HMPH...

FWP
WHAT DID I JUST SAY!?
WHAT AM I DOING!?
!!
GRB
YOU'RE A BAD BOY.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A FIANCÉE.


YOU HAVE TO WASH BLOOD OUT IMMEDI-ATELY...
...OR IT WON'T COME OUT.
PLISH
PLISH
...
PLISH
I'M SORRY, TAKEZŌ ...
WHY DID I USE YOUR NAME...?

I'M SORRY...
...OTSU-!!
LET'S GO HOME...
...TODAY.

BACK TO MIYAMOTO.
THUD THUD THUD THUD
BE CAREFUL!
THERE MAY ONLY BE TWO OF THEM...

THUD
...BUT THOSE BRATS KILLED THE BOSS!!
THUD
...HAVE SOME FUN WITH OKŌ!!
YEAHH
THUD
...WE CAN...
NOW THAT THE BOSS AIN'T AROUND NO MORE...
HEE HEE...
THUD
I'M FIRST!!
ME TOO!!
ME TOO!!
NO, I AM.
I AM!!
THUD
ME TOO.
ME TOO!!
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO HER...
...FOR SO LONG!!

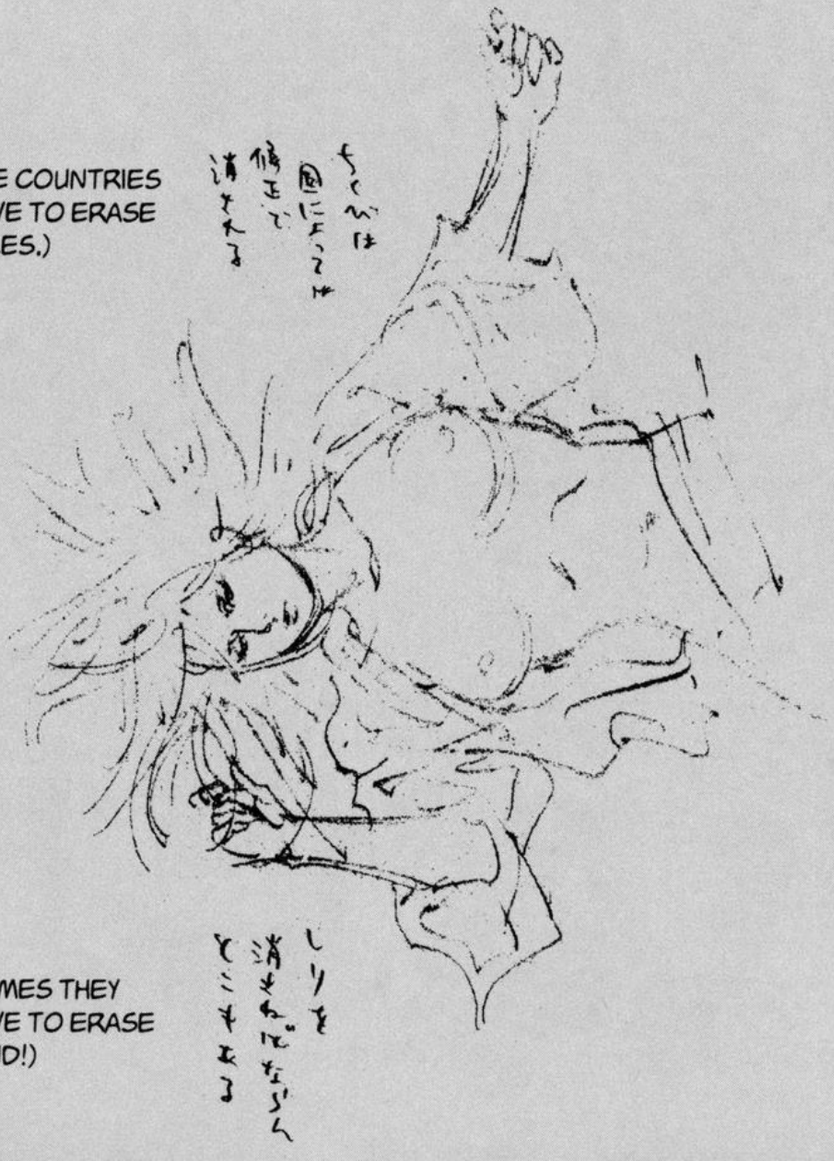
YEAH.
MIYA-
MOTO
VILLAGE
...?
HM?
URK
...OTSŪ.
I
MISS...
WHAT?
...YOU
SHOULD
GO.
YEAH...

...YOU'RE GOING WITH OKŌ AND AKEMI!?
NAH...
HUH?
YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME...?
DON'T TELL ME...
I LEFT HOME KNOWING I'D *NEVER* GO BACK.
FROM THIS DAY ON...

THUD THUD
THUD
I'M A VAGABOND.

THUD
THUD
AYAHH!
THEY'RE ALREADY HERE...

Vagabond

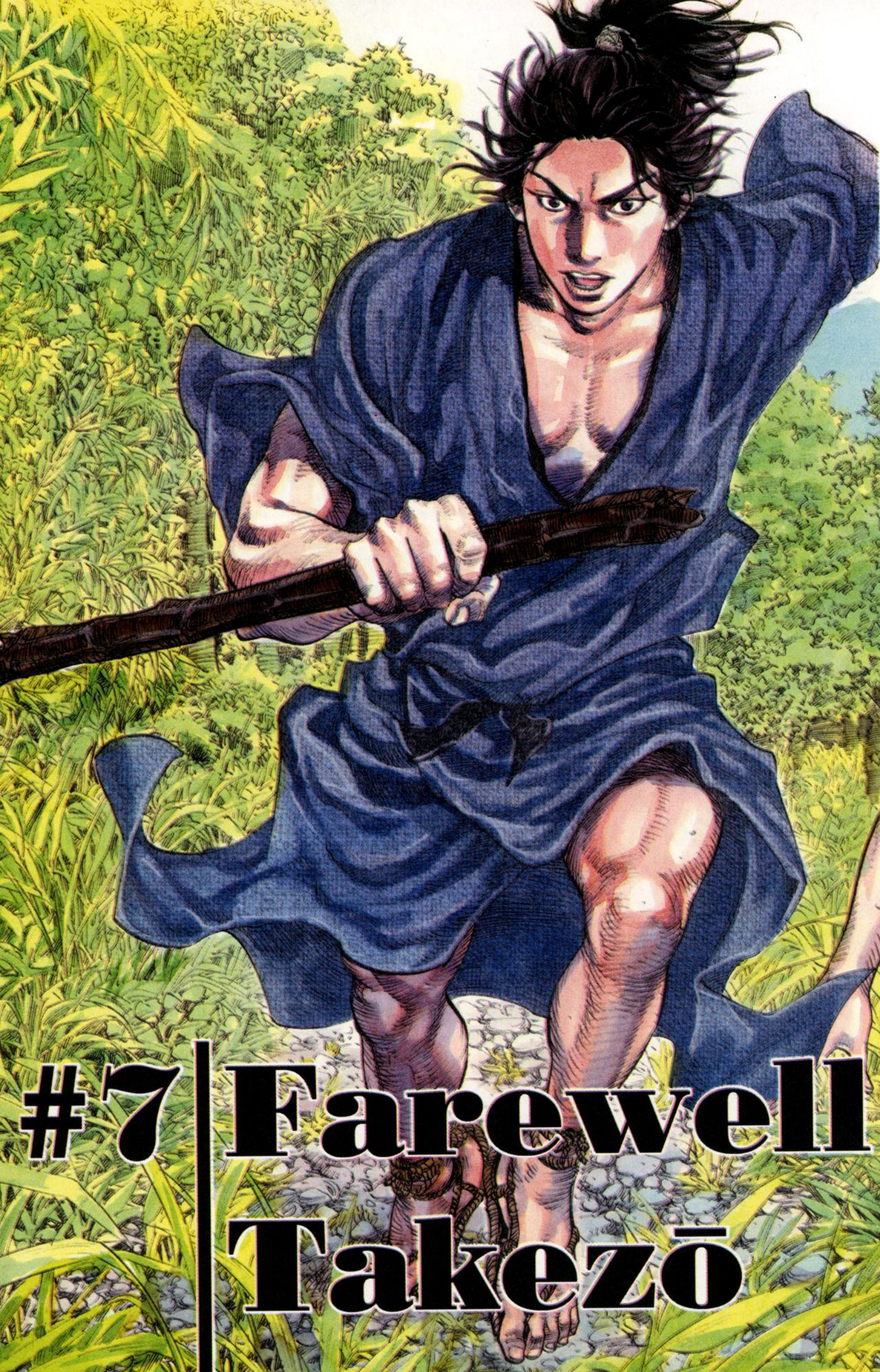


(IN SOME COUNTRIES THEY HAVE TO ERASE MY NIPPLES.)

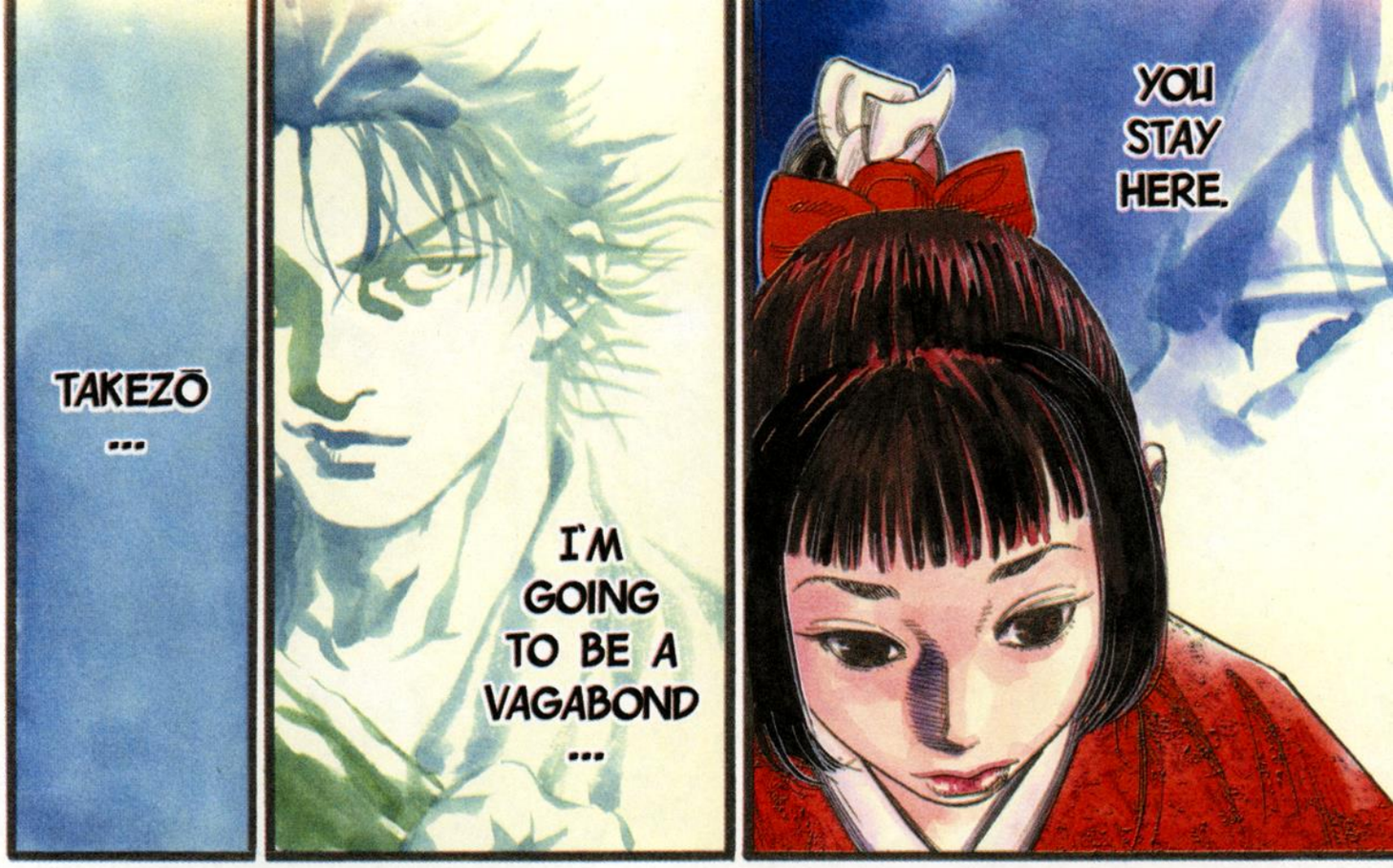
(SOMETIMES THEY EVEN HAVE TO ERASE MY BEHIND!)

IT'S TSUJIKAZE'S MEN!!
THEY'RE BACK FOR REVENGE!
!!
YOU STAY HERE.
MOTHER'S BACK AT HOME!
YOU'LL JUST BE IN THE WAY.
WE'LL BRING OKŌ BACK HERE, I PROMISE!
LET'S GO.
!!
I'M GOING, TOO.

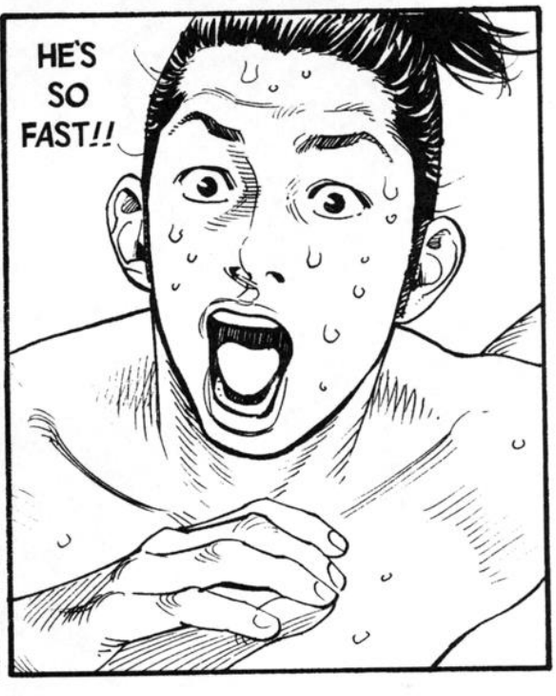
YAHH!!



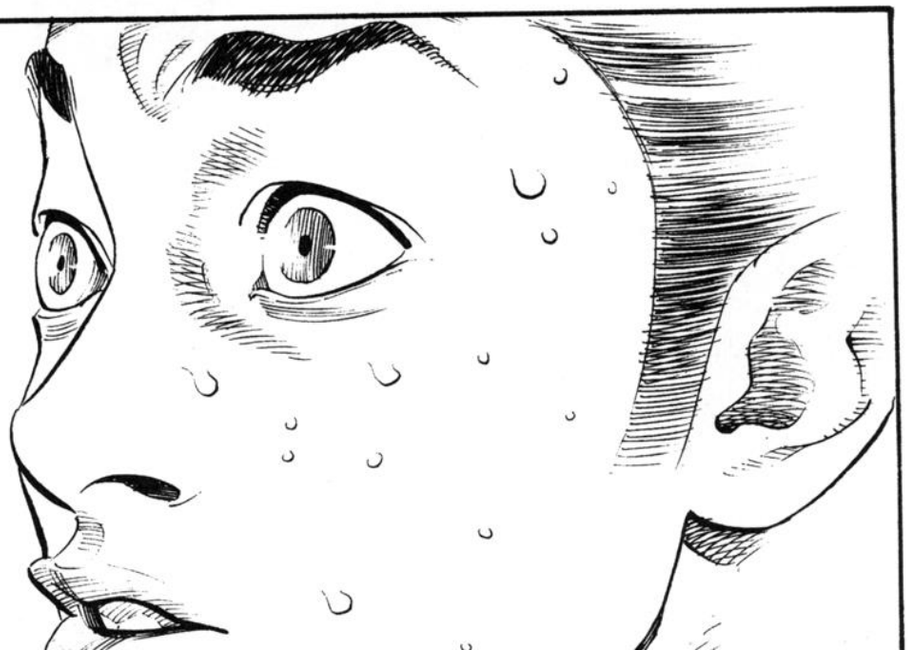
#7 | Farewell Takezō


TAKEZŌ
...
I'M GOING TO BE A VAGABOND ...
YOU STAY HERE.

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU...



DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...



!!

YAH
TUMP
!!

H-HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE?

DO-YOU WANT TO DIE!?
ARE YOU CRAZY!?

ARGH
AIEEE
URGH
MY SWORD ...!!
...I LEFT IT IN THE HOUSE!!
HUH?!
FWUD FWUD
HEEN HEEN
OKŌ!
WHERE IS SHE?
SO YOU'RE THE ONE...
THE KID WHO KILLED THE BOSS!!

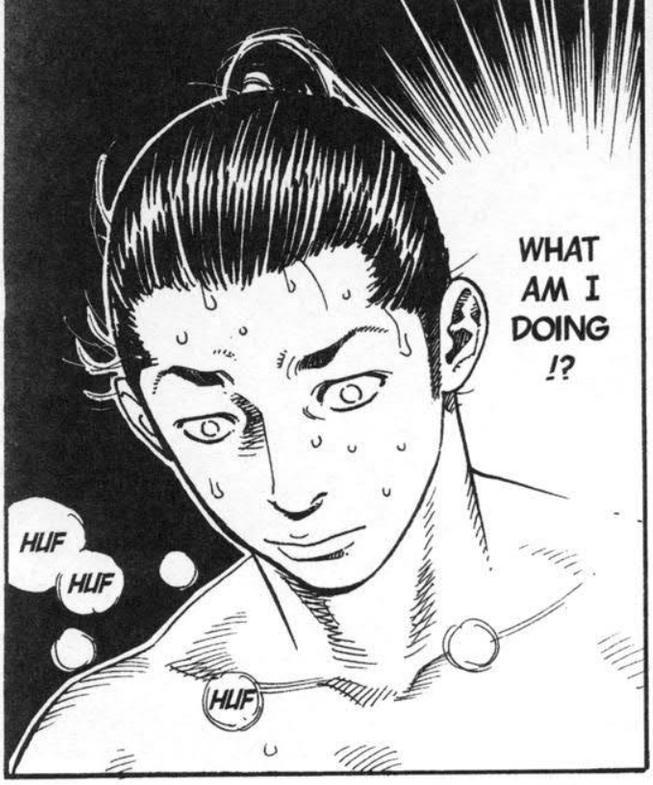
HOW'D THIS BRAT KILL TSUJIKAZE TENMA, LEADER OF THREE HUNDRED BANDITS?
HE KILLED THE BOSS...?
HE'S JUST A KID.
HE'S PUT A STAIN ON OUR REPUTATION.
WHMP
AYAHHH!
URGH ...

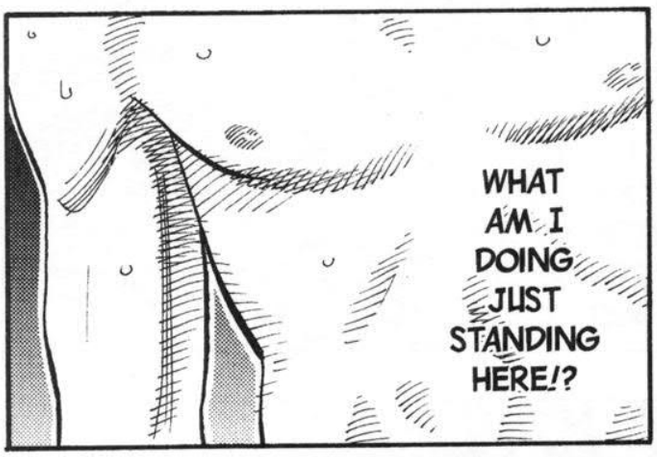
WE GOTTA KILL HIM OFF BEFORE WORD GETS AROUND!!
DIE!
TENMA LET HIS GUARD DOWN 'CAUSE HE WAS TOO CRAZY ABOUT OKŌ.

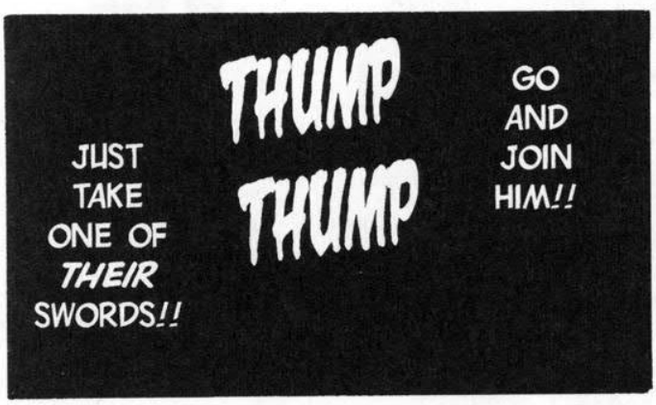
FWISH
YOUR SIDE IS WIDE OPEN!!

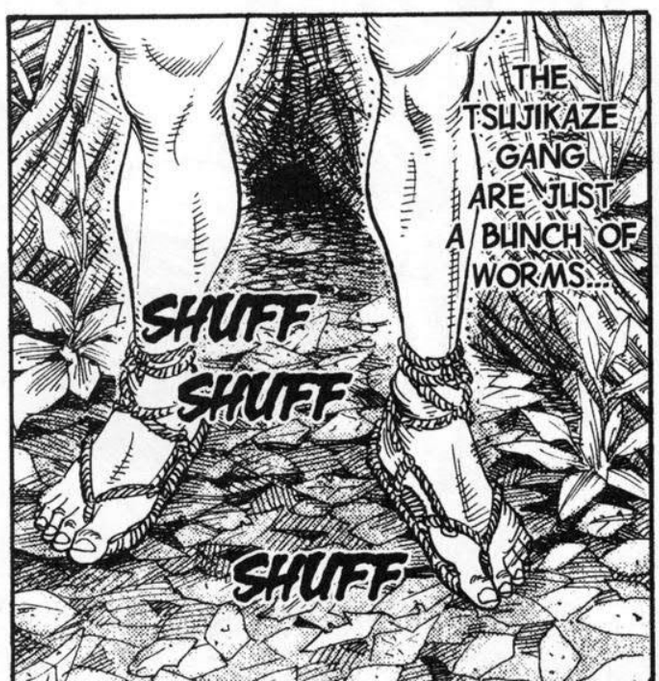
AIEE

KSHUNK
!!


WHAT AM I DOING !?
HUF
HUF
HUF


WHAT AM I DOING JUST STANDING HERE!?


JUST TAKE ONE OF THEIR SWORDS!!
THUMP THUMP
GO AND JOIN HIM!!


THE TSUJIKAZE GANG ARE JUST A BUNCH OF WORMS...
SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF

THEY'RE FIGHTING!!
ARGH
AIEE
I KILLED FOUR MEN YESTERDAY!!
COME ON, FACE IT, MATAHACHI!!
IF YOU FALL BEHIND TAKEZŌ NOW...
...YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN HIS SHADOW!!
I'M GOING IN!!
WHY DO I FEEL SO INFERIOR TO MY BEST FRIEND? HE'S THE SAME AGE AND FROM THE SAME VILLAGE AS ME.
ONE!!
TWO!
ALL RIGHT THEN, ON THE COUNT OF THREE!!
GONNA FIGHT AND KILL THOSE BANDITS... AND RESCUE OKŌ!!

HUH?
MATA-HACHI!
URR...
THREE !!
MATA-HACHI!!
OKŌ!!
SO YOU'RE SAFE!!
HOW'D YOU GET OUT!?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE...
!
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I JUST HAD A BAD FEELING.
SO I STEPPED OUT AND THEN THEY CAME BUSTING IN...
IT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
BRR
...
SHIVER
BRR
DON'T BE MEAN TO ME...
BRR
BRR
SO EVEN YOU... ARE AFRAID?
...
...'CAUSE I KNEW TENMA HAD FEELINGS FOR ME.
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO STAY CALM...

HEY.
WHUD
WHAT–
WHAT ABOUT TAKEZŌ?

ARRGH!!
KUSH
YOU BASTARD!

UH...
FWWSHH

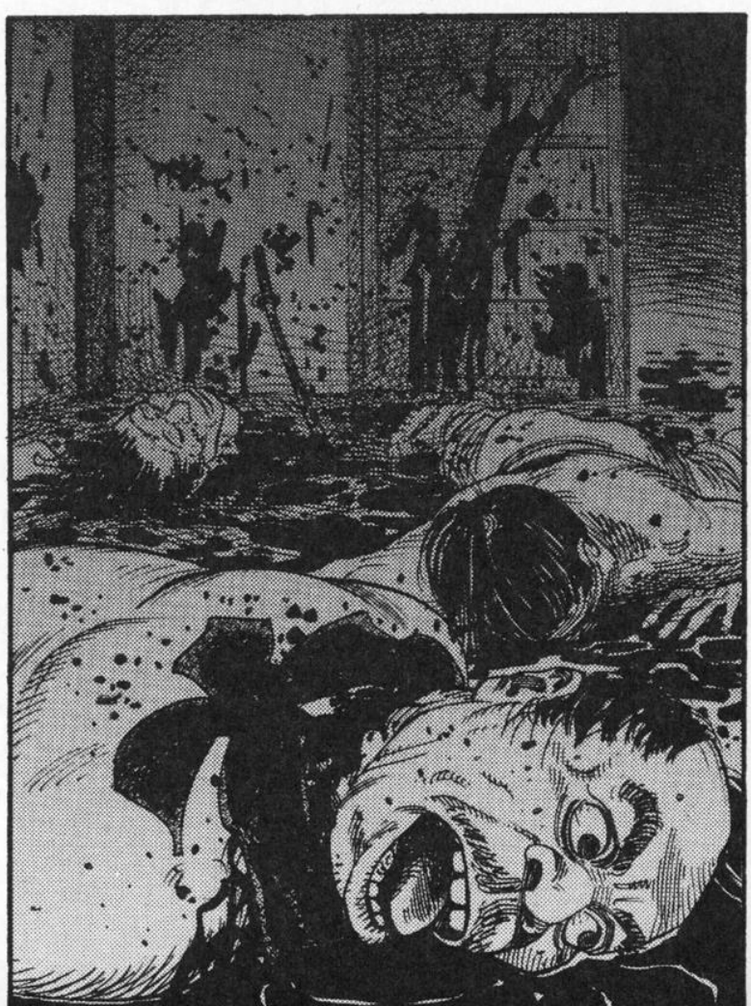
KUCHIING
YAHH
!!
FWUD
!!
THUNK

FWOOSH
SHHLK

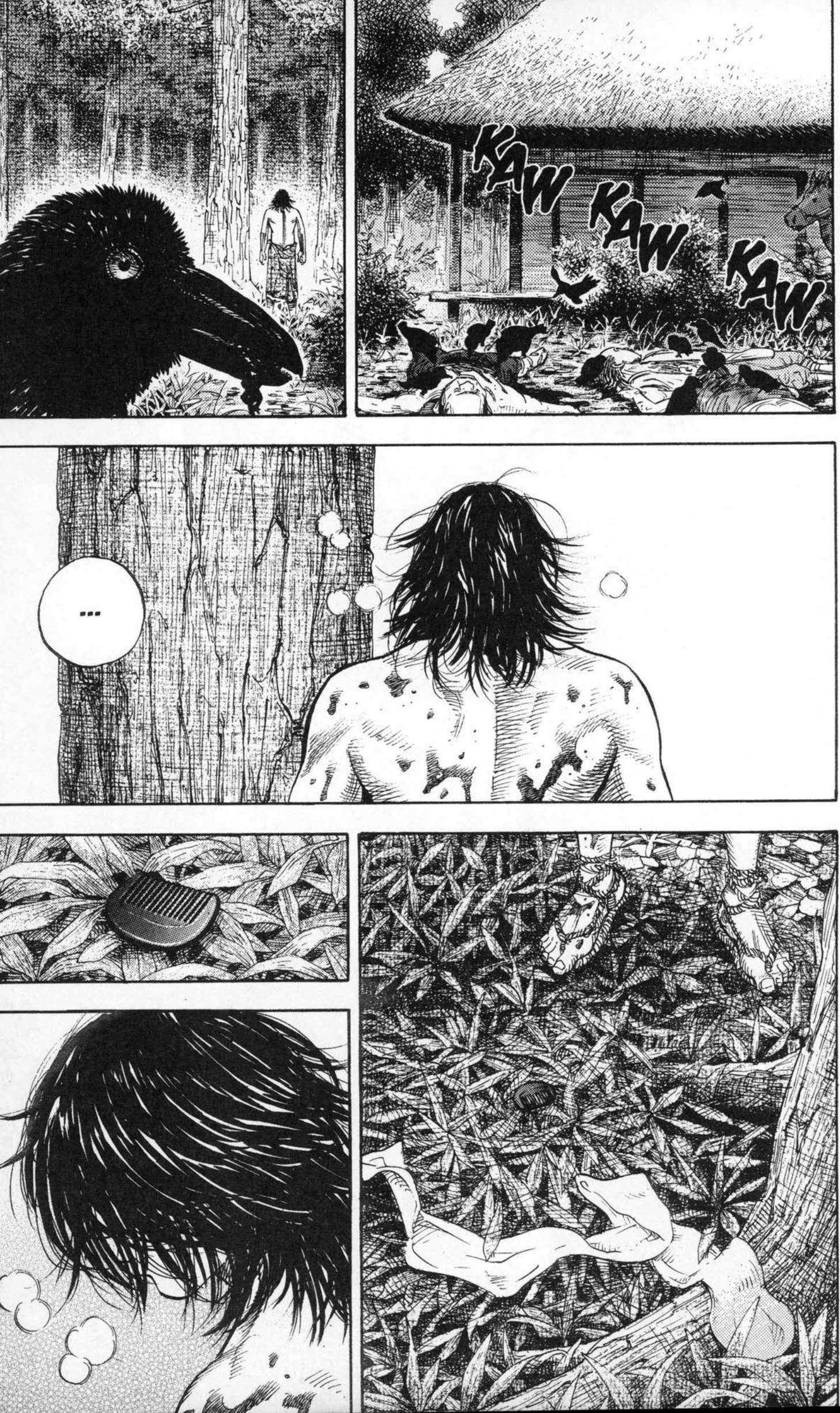
STAY TOGETHER!! HE CAN'T HANDLE ALL OF US!
DON'T RETREAT !!
URR...
WHUD
MATA-HACHI!
OKŌ!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
AIEEE
FAK

THUNK

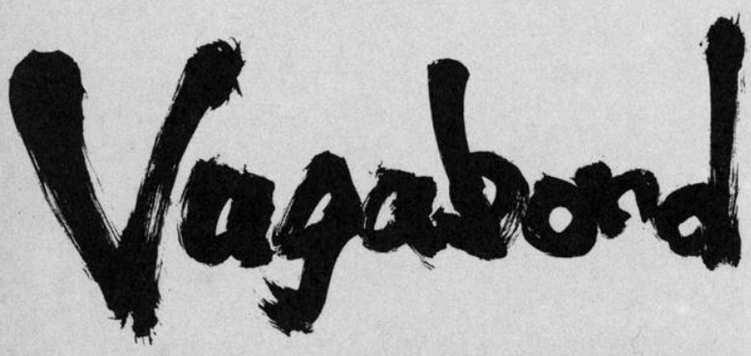
IF YOU'RE ALIVE, SAY SOMETHING!!
MATAHACHI!
WHUD
SLASH
ARRGH!
ACK
THUNK
WHUD
HUF
HUF



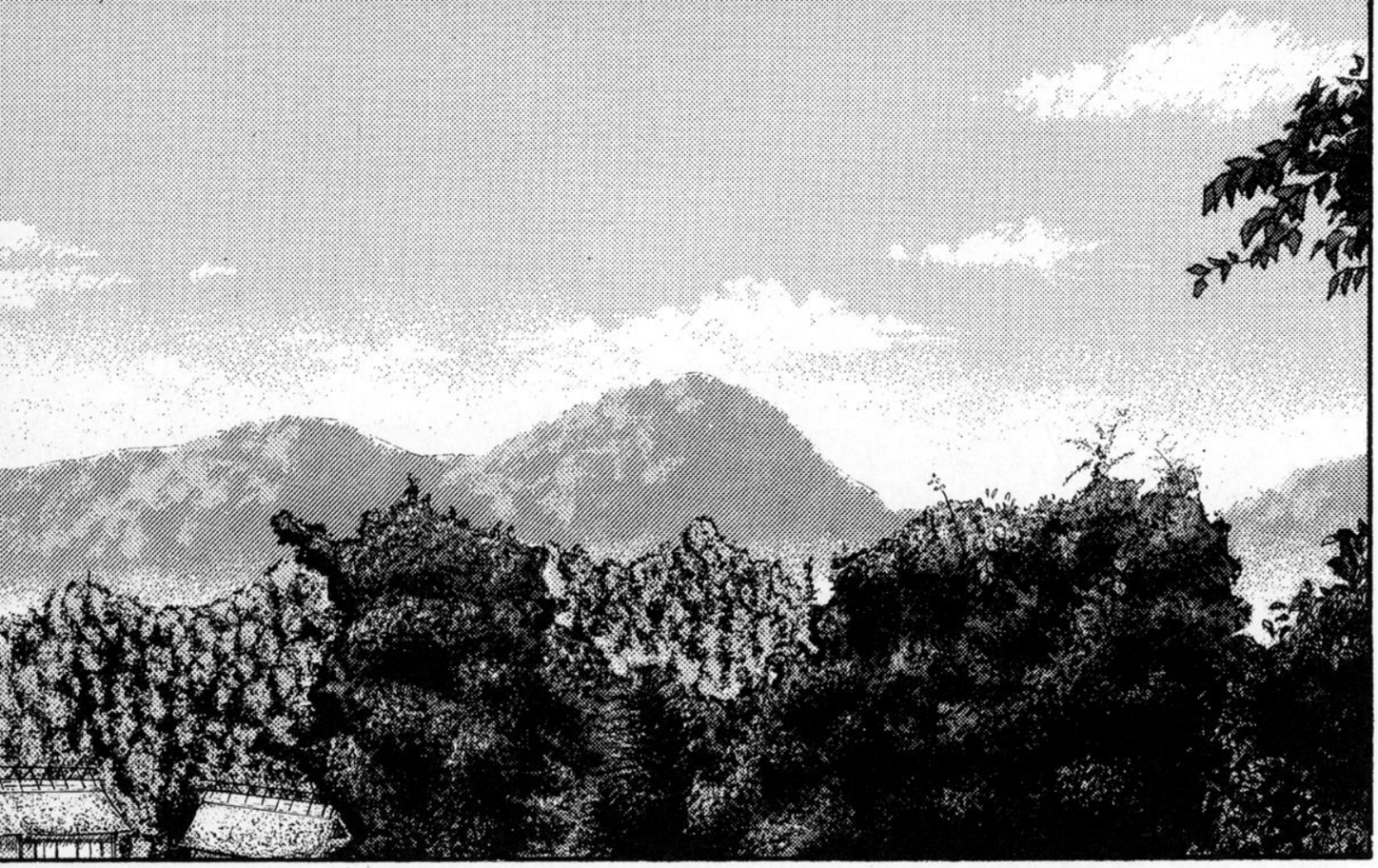
KAW
KAW


KAW
KAW
KAW
...

MATAHACHI
...

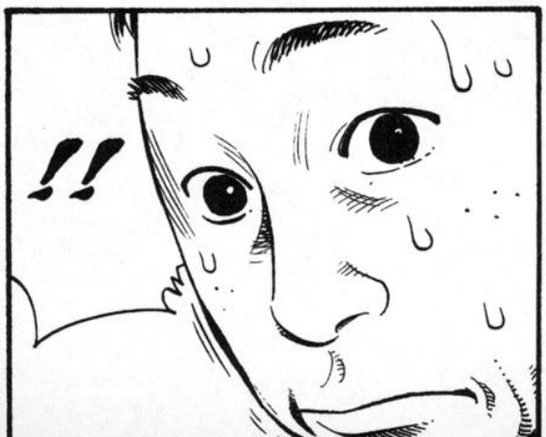

Vagabond

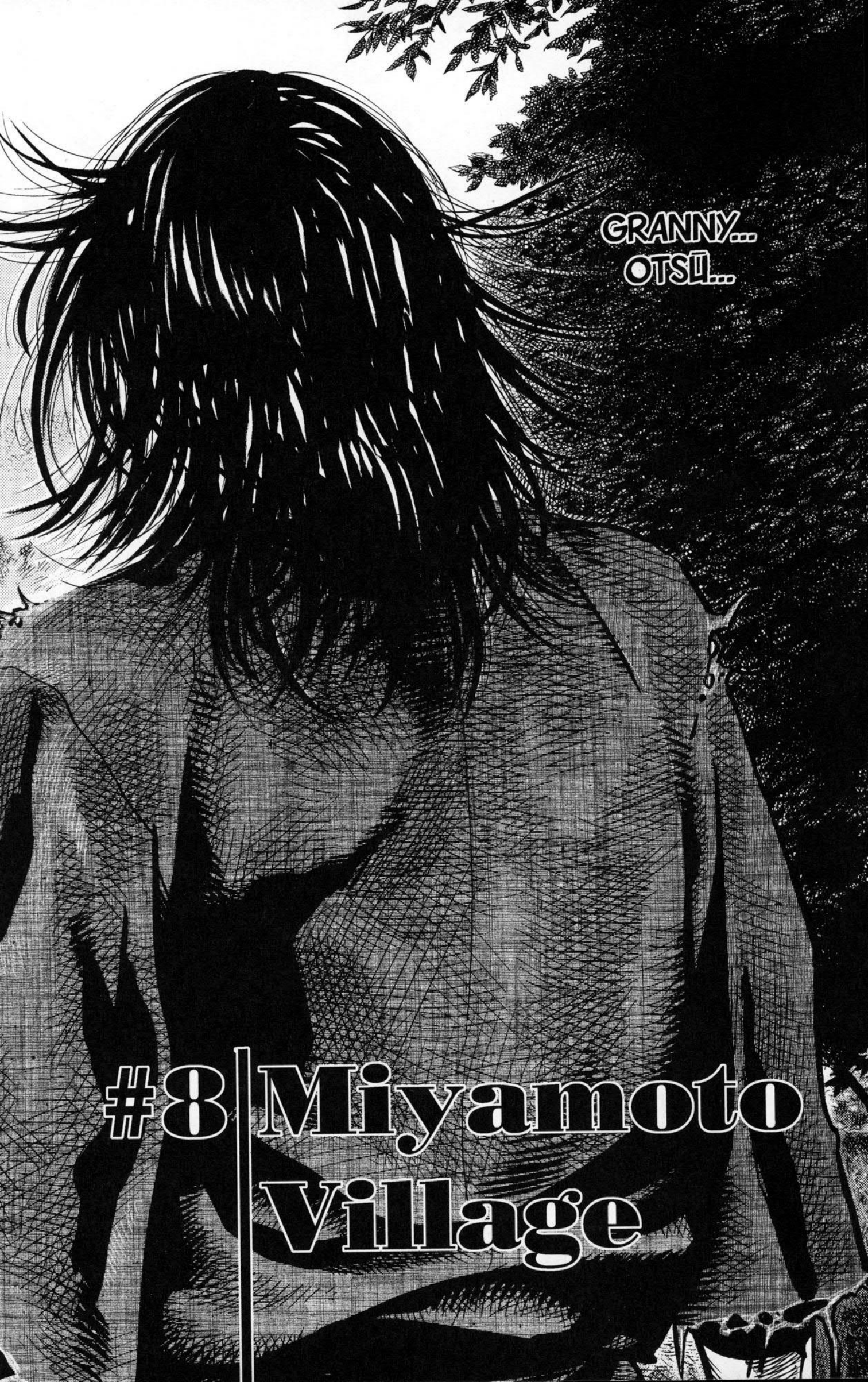
(THICK AND STRONG FORM)



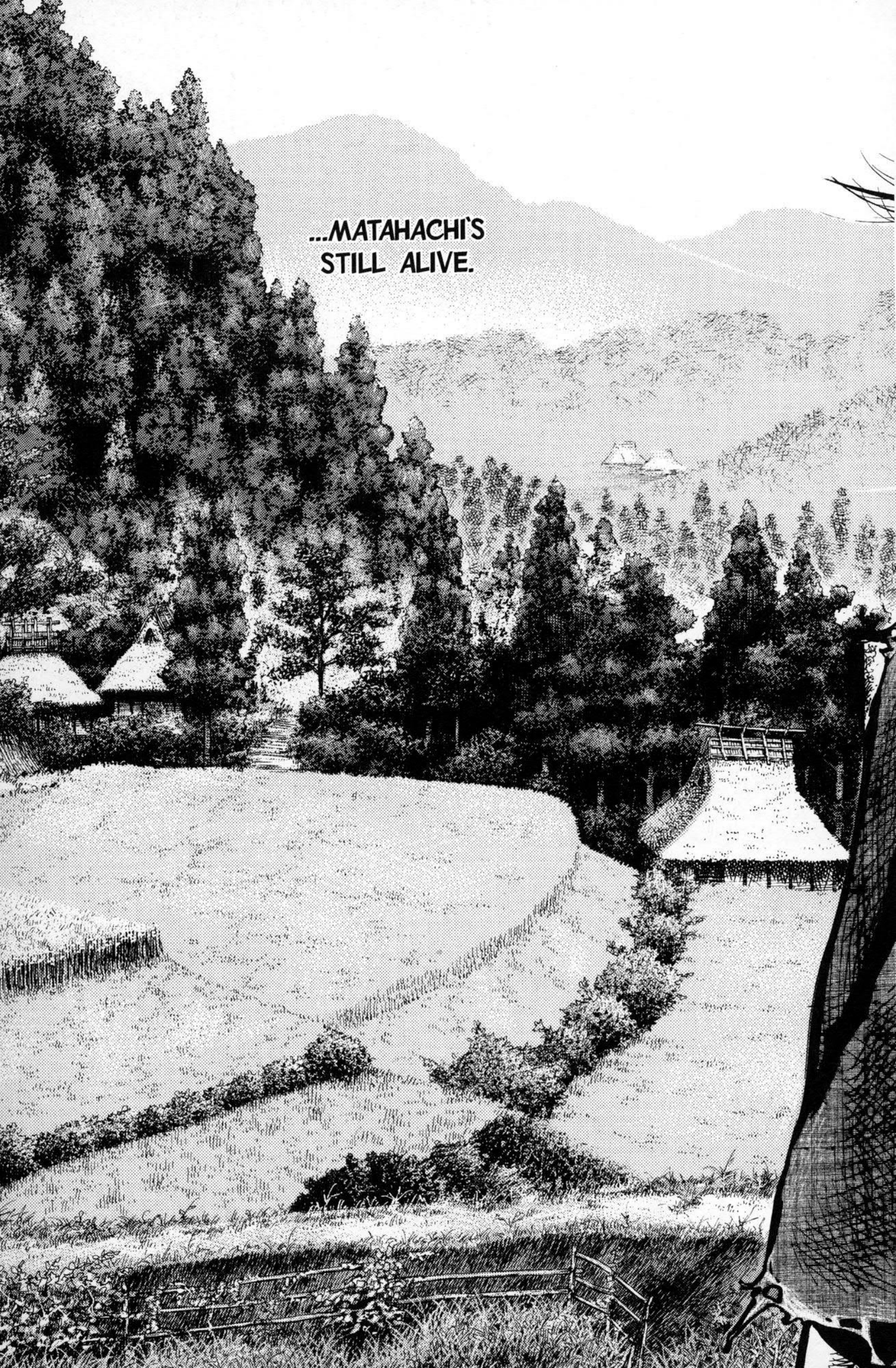
SHUF

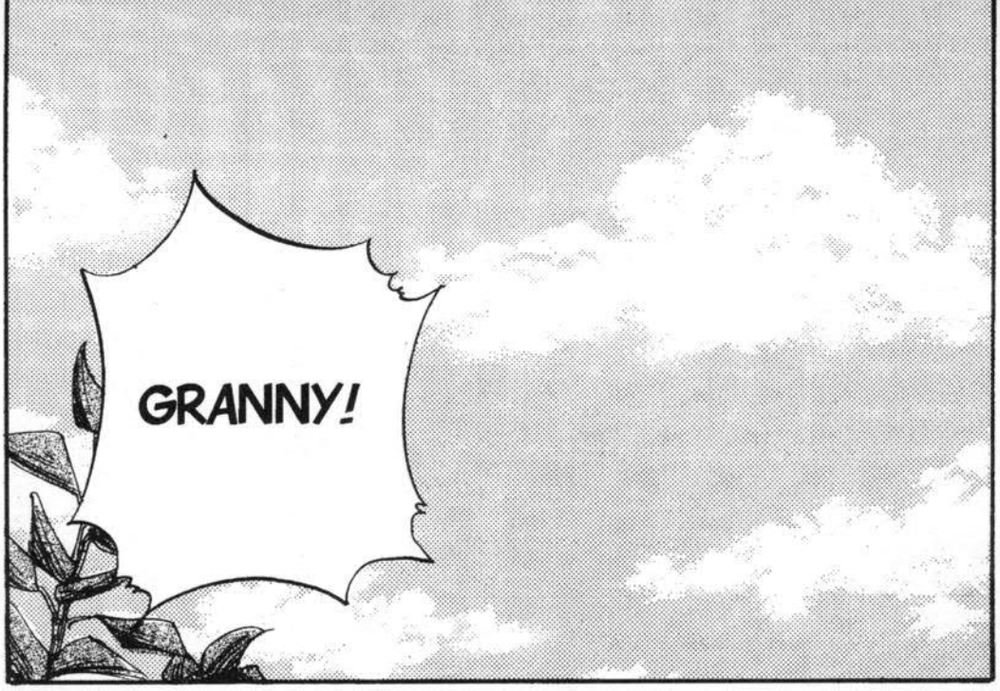
GASP!


!!

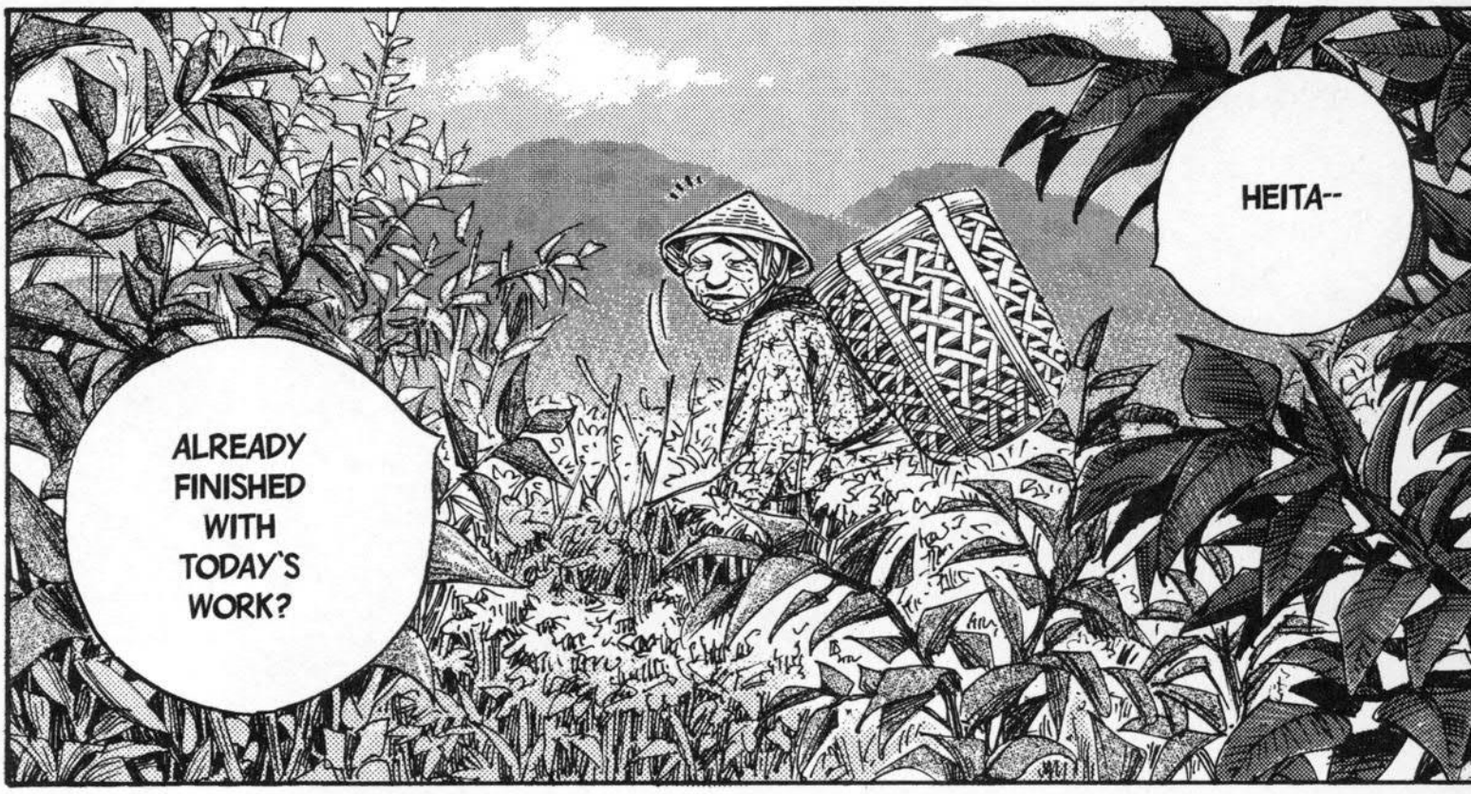


#8 Miyamoto Village


...MATAHACHI'S
STILL ALIVE.


GRANNY!

HUF
HUF

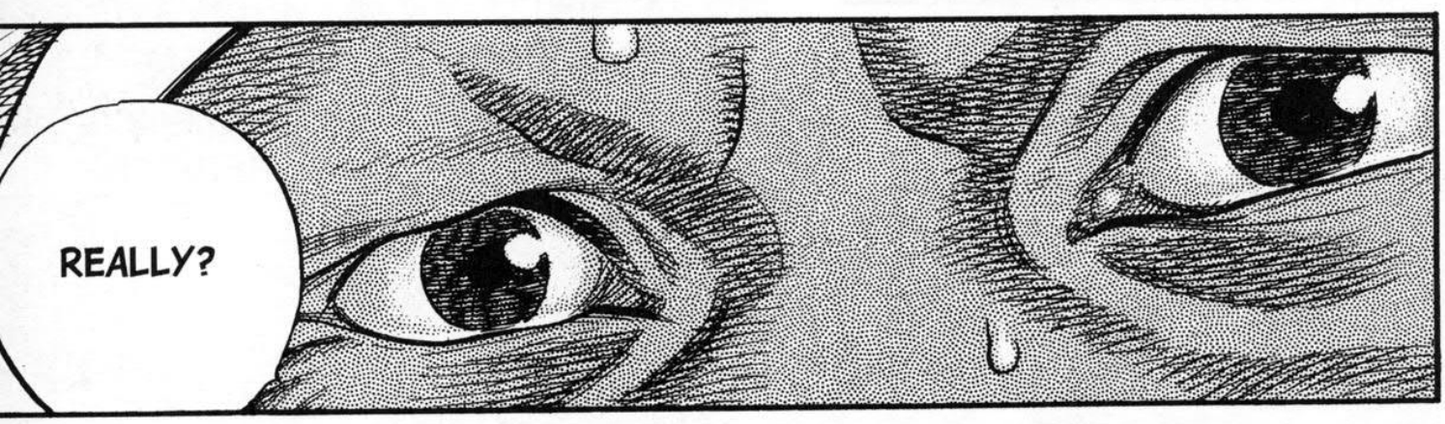

HEITA--
ALREADY FINISHED WITH TODAY'S WORK?

SMAK
!!

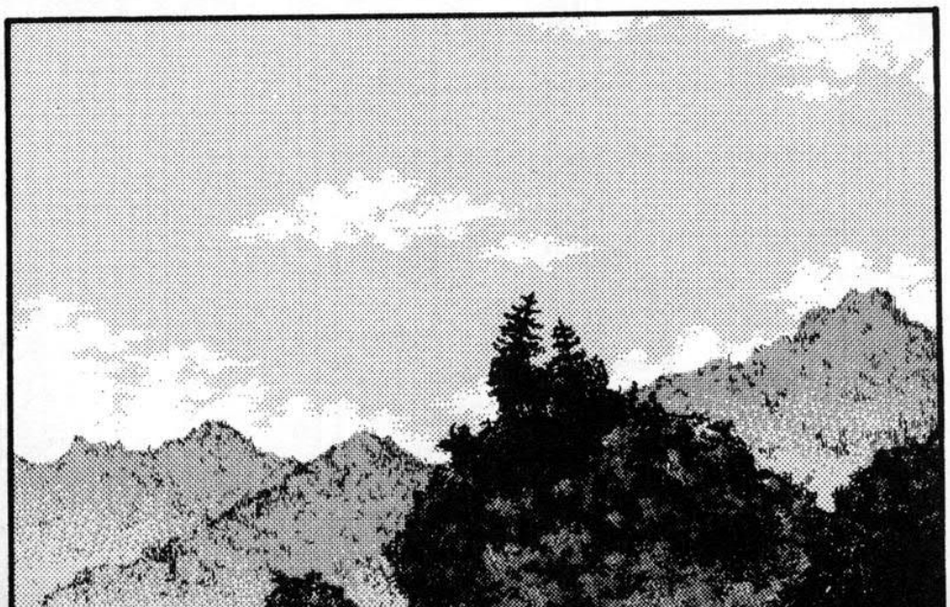
FORGET ABOUT WORK! I GOT SOMETHING TO TELL--
HMPH

I SAW...
...SHINMEN TAKEZŌ!
SNIFF

WE, THE HON'IDEN, ARE THE PROUD DESCENDENTS OF HARD WORKERS!
YOU MUSTN'T SULLY OUR REPUTATION!!
I ASKED IF YOU'RE DONE WITH TODAY'S WORK!!


REALLY?

HUF
HUF
HUF
MATAHACHI
!!



HUF
HUF
HUF
MATAHACHI !!
NOPE...
NAH...
?
HUF
HAS MATAHACHI RETURNED !?
HUF
HUF
HUF
...!!
GRANNY ...
...MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON MATAHACHI...
IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR NOW.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT ...

WH-WHAT... WAS THAT FOR...
I WAS JUST--
!!
FWAK
THAT MEANS MY MATAHACHI MUST BE BACK TOO!!
SHINMEN TAKEZŌ WHO WENT OFF TO WAR WITH MATAHACHI HAS COME HOME...!!
HEY! WATCH OUT!
FWISH
FWISH
THWAK
FIND THEM!!
GO FIND THEM!!
WHAT!? SHINMEN TAKEZŌ...!!

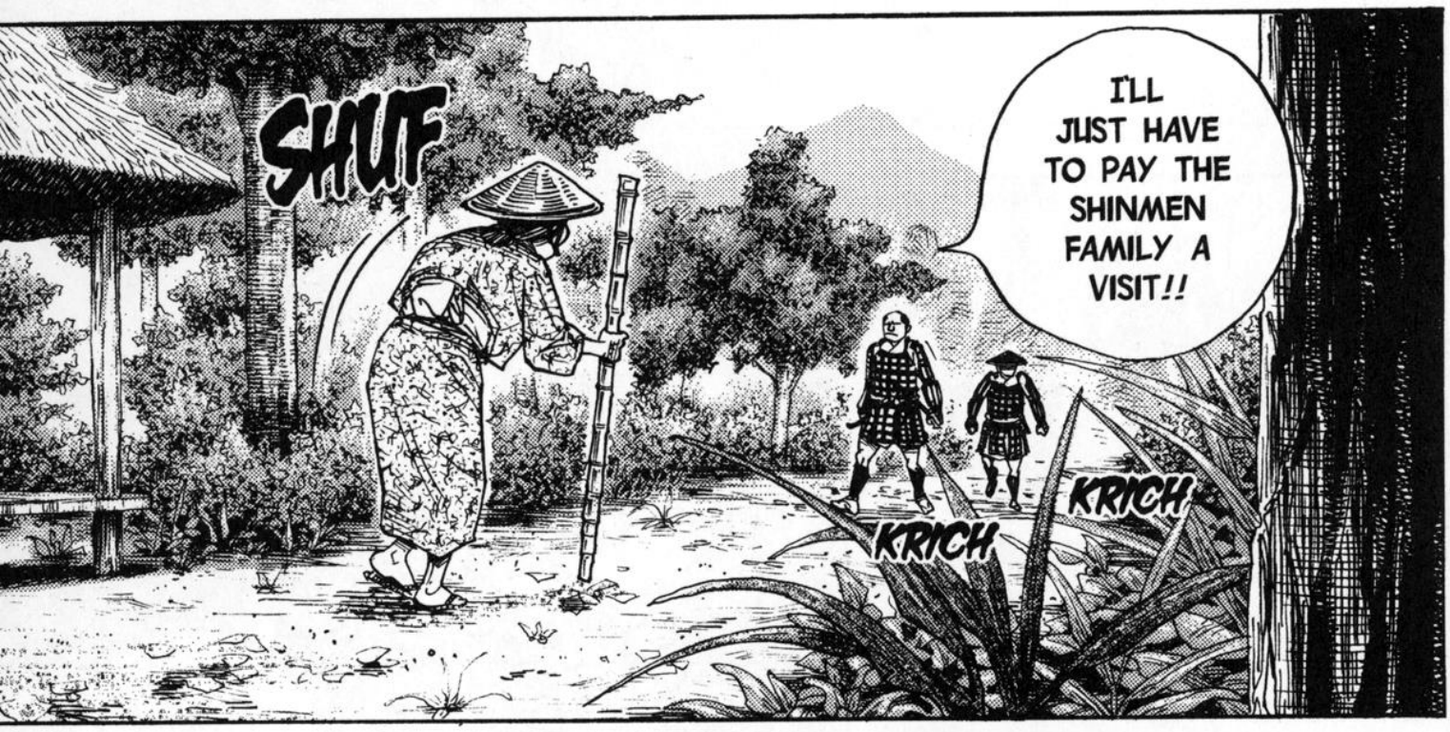
MATAHACHI...

WHAT NERVE!
I WOULD NEVER GIVE UP ON MATAHACHI!
AS MATAHACHI'S FIANCÉE, OTSŪ SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIS RETURN. I'LL GO TELL HER THE GOOD NEWS.

PLEASE BE ALIVE...

...HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MARRIED BY NOW. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A RESPECTABLE HEIR TO THE HON'IDEN FAMILY.
IF SHINMEN TAKEZŌ HADN'T DRAGGED HIM OFF TO WAR...

DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU SNUCK BACK HERE *WITHOUT* MATAHACHI!
THAT BASTARD ...!


SHUF
I'LL JUST HAVE TO PAY THE SHINMEN FAMILY A VISIT!!
KRICH
KRICH

THOSE SAMURAI DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR ...
KRICH
KRICH

ARE YOU PART OF THE SHINMEN FAMILY?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, GRANNY!?
URK

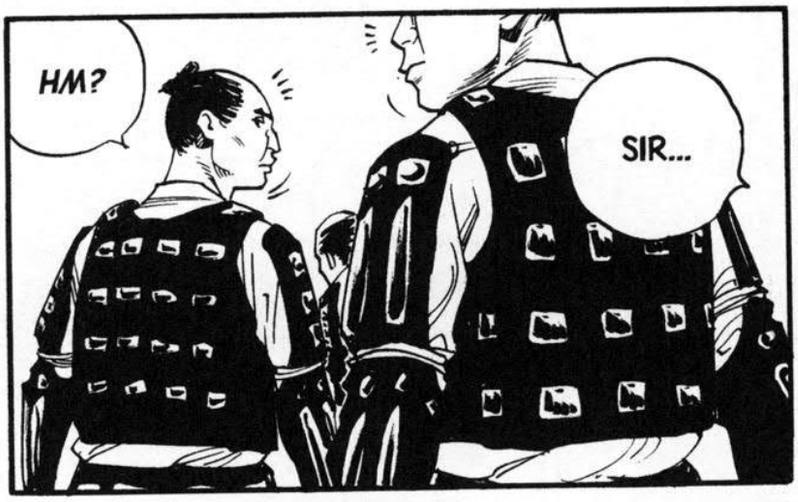
NOT HERE!!
LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T COME HOME YET!!
WHERE'S HE HIDING!?
HM...?

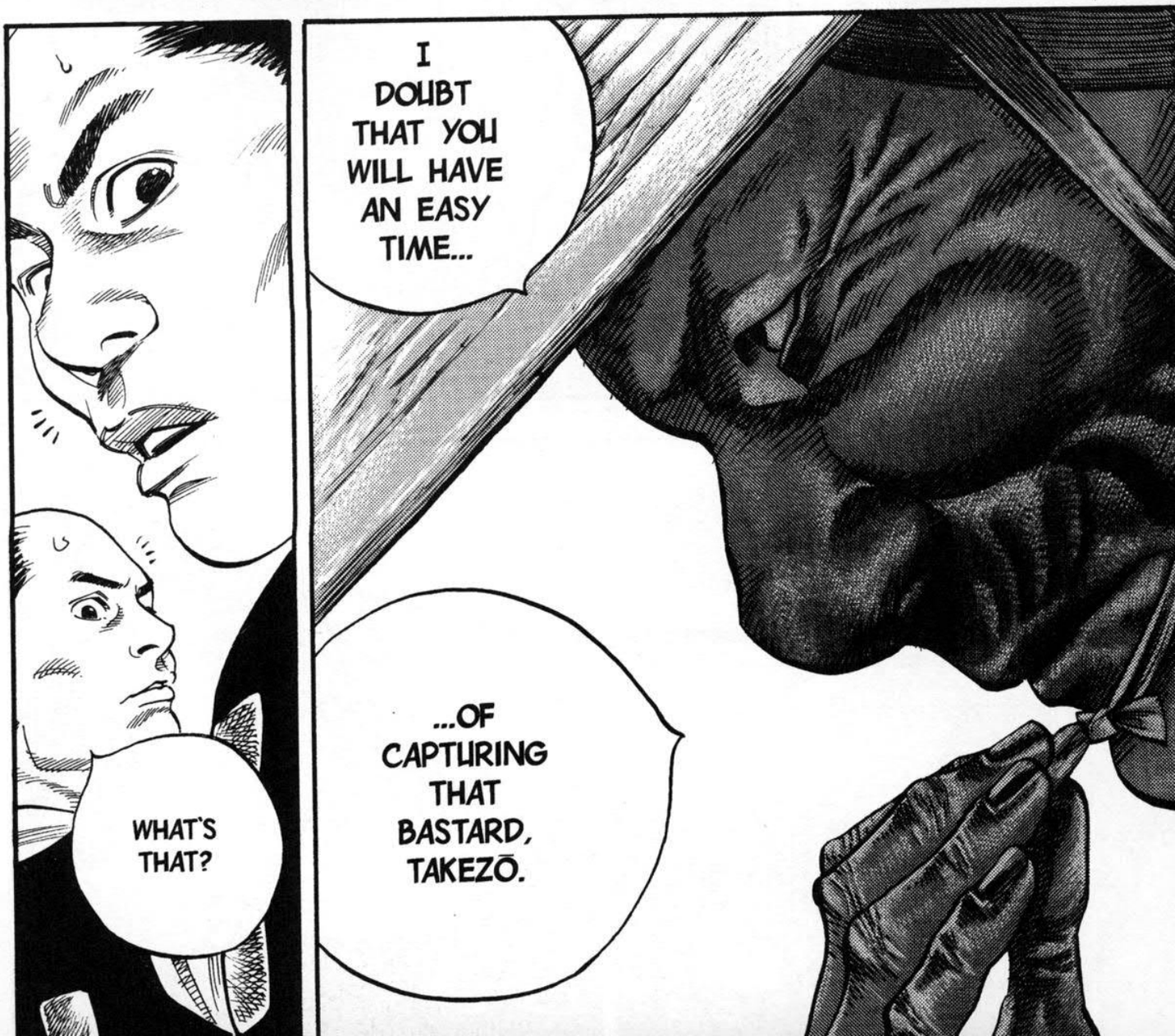
I'M THE RETIRED HEAD OF THE GENTRY ACROSS THE RIVER.
FIP
HEAVENS, NO!!
AND WHAT BRINGS YOU MEN HERE ?
FIP

YES.
IS--
WE'RE AFTER A MAN NAMED TAKEZŌ!!
!!
...!!
DID HE DO SOMETHING WRONG?
H-HE'S...
...NOT WITH MY SON? HIS NAME IS HON'IDEN MATAHACHI.
HM?
NO, HE'S ALONE.
IS HE ALONE?
HE BROKE THROUGH THE GATES AT THE PROVINCE BORDER.
HE'S ALREADY KILLED TWO OF OUR MEN.
WE ALSO KNOW THAT HE WAS ONE OF IKITA'S MEN.
THAT GOOD FOR NOTHING TAKEZŌ...

YOU MEN STAY HERE...
...JUST IN CASE HE SHOWS UP.
LET'S GO.
THAT TAKEZŌ'S TO BLAME FOR DRAGGING MATAHACHI OFF TO WAR!!

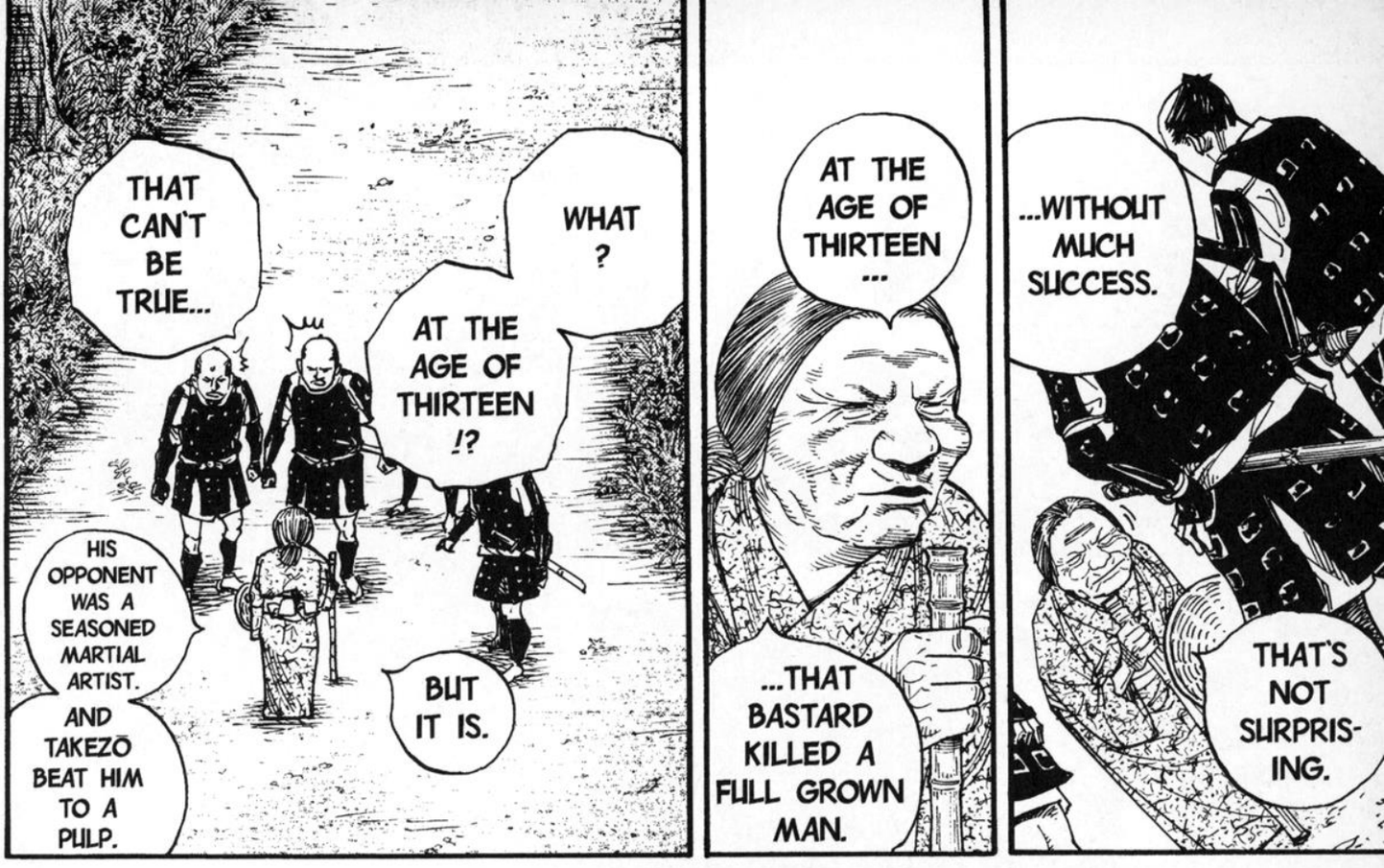
HOW ABOMINABLE!!
HE REALLY DID SNEAK BACK HERE BY HIMSELF.
SO YOUR SON FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA?
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT HIM.

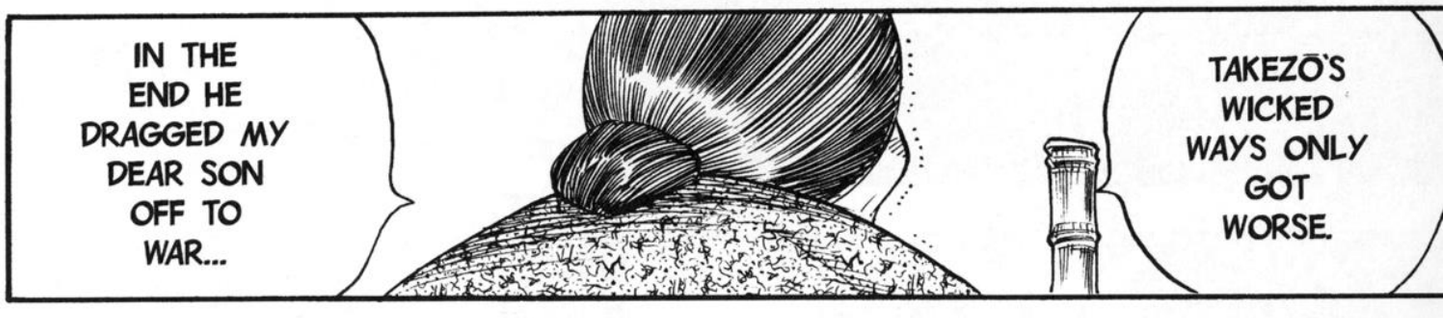

HM?
SIR...


I DOUBT THAT YOU WILL HAVE AN EASY TIME...
...OF CAPTURING THAT BASTARD, TAKEZŌ.
WHAT'S THAT?

IF WE DON'T FIND HIM BY DUSK, WE'LL BE STUCK HERE FOR A WHILE.
YEAH ...
KRICH
KRICH
I DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK IN THIS VILLAGE.
SHUF
SHUF
SHUF
...
...
...
WILL YOU...
...HEED THE ADVICE OF AN OLD WOMAN?

PERHAPS WE NEED TO BE MORE PATIENT...
WE'LL HAVE TO SEE, THOUGH...
HMM
THAT SHINMEN BASTARD...
...
...IS INCREDIBLY STRONG.
HE'S FEROCIOUS.
AND WE'VE BEEN AFTER HIM FOR DAYS...


THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...
WHAT ?
AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN !?
HIS OPPONENT WAS A SEASONED MARTIAL ARTIST.
AND TAKEZŌ BEAT HIM TO A PULP.
BUT IT IS.
AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN ...
...WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS.
...THAT BASTARD KILLED A FULL GROWN MAN.
THAT'S NOT SURPRIS-ING.


IN THE END HE DRAGGED MY DEAR SON OFF TO WAR...
TAKEZŌ'S WICKED WAYS ONLY GOT WORSE.

OUCH.
TUGG
LEND ME YOUR EAR.

...
HM...
...

HOW COULD HE HAVE SURVIVED AND NOT MY MATAHACHI?
...

AHH!
ANOTHER BODY!
TAKEZŌ'S DONE IT AGAIN!
THE BODY'S STILL WARM!!
TAKEZŌ MUST BE NEARBY!!
A BODY ...?
HOW SCARY...
FWOOSH

OTSŪ.
KRCH

KYAAA!

OVER THERE!!
HEY!!

UH...
WAS IT HIM!?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

...
FWISH

URK
UH...

TA--
FWICHH
OVER THERE!!
STOP!!
TAKEZŌ?

Vagabond

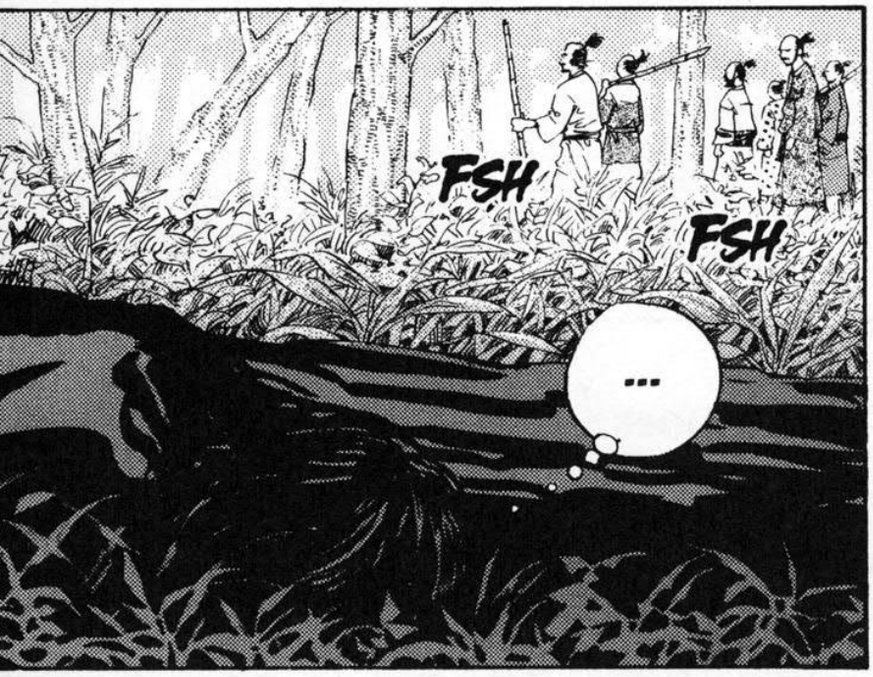
(OH, MATAHACHI!)

SHIPPŌJI TEMPLE
IT'S NO WONDER YOU CAN'T CAPTURE TAKEZŌ.
HE WAS AN ODD CHILD WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS! IN OTHER WORDS...
...HE'S A BEAST!
HE'LL FEED ON BIRDS, RABBITS, OR EVEN TREE BARK. WHATEVER IT TAKES...
...HE WILL CONTINUE TO ELUDE YOUR MEN.
HMPH.
...HE'S OUT OF HUMAN REACH.
ONCE A BEAST ESCAPES INTO THE MOUNTAINS ...

#9 | Fiancée

PHEW.

!!

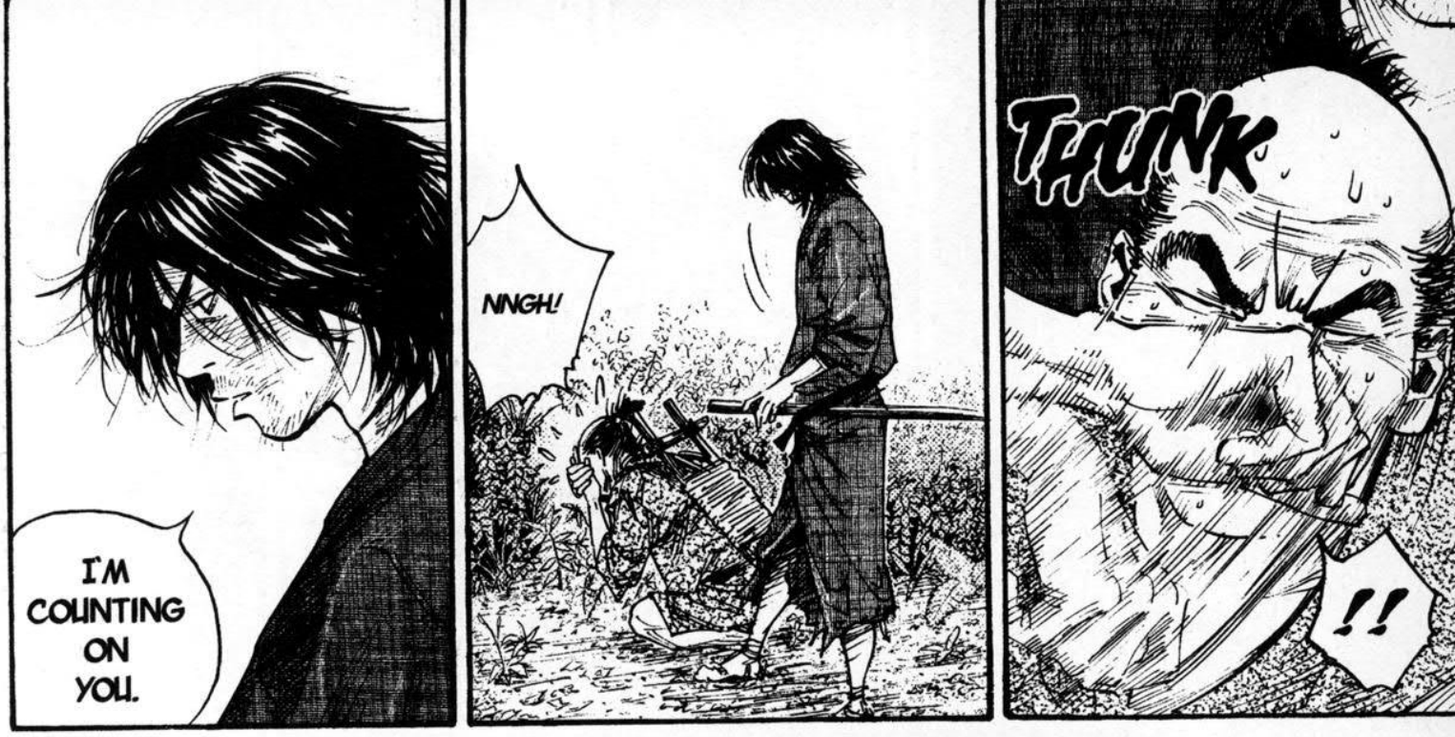

FSH
FSH
...

THE *VILLAGERS* ARE AFTER ME, TOO...?

ULP!!
FWISH

RELAY THAT MESSAGE TO GRANNY AND OTSŪ.
TELL THEM THAT AND I'LL LEAVE THE VILLAGE.
ULP
ULP
THAT'S ALL I WANT.
MATAHACHI'S STILL ALIVE.
BRR
SHI-SHI-SHIN...
BRR
BRR
TA-TA-...

...
...
...
KRAK
URR--
FWICH
FWICH
ARE THEY BEING ORDERED TO?
...
NOD
THEY'RE AFTER ME?
...
NOD
WHY ARE THE VILLAGERS HELPING THE SOLDIERS?
...


I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
NNGH!
THUNK
!!

...MATAHACHI'S STILL ALIVE.
BUT...
TELL GRANNY HON'IDEN AND OTSŪ OF SHIPPŌJI TEMPLE...

BUT HE'S NOT COMING BACK TO MIYAMOTO.
GIVE THEM THE MESSAGE.
...WITH A WOMAN.
...I CAN'T SAY HE TOOK OFF...

IT'S TAKEZŌ!! HE'S OVER HERE!!
TP
TP
TP
HUF
HUF
HUF
WHUD
!!
GO!!
HUF
HUF
HUF
SHF

...I AM THE MOTHER OF HON'IDEN MATA-HACHI WHO, AFTER BEING LURED OFF TO WAR BY THAT DESPICABLE TAKEZŌ...
...HAS NOT RETURNED HOME.
MY NAME IS OSUGI.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...

HMM?
HMM?

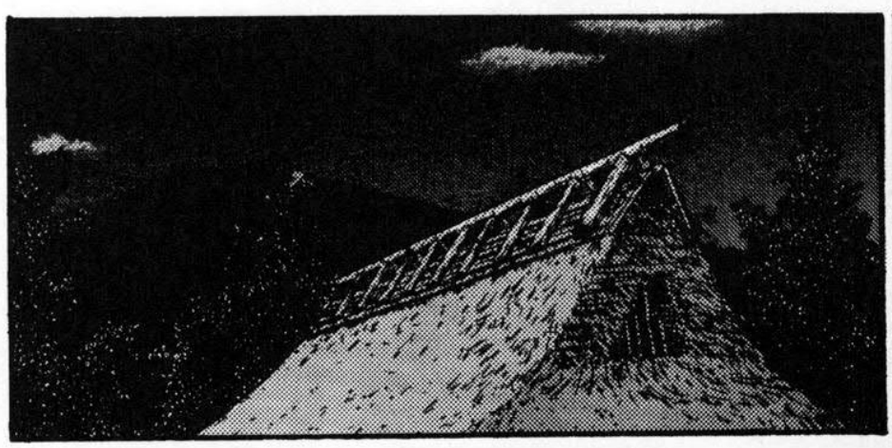
AND YOU?
HUH ?

I'M OTSŪ.
MMBL
OTSŪ!
BE MORE POLITE!!

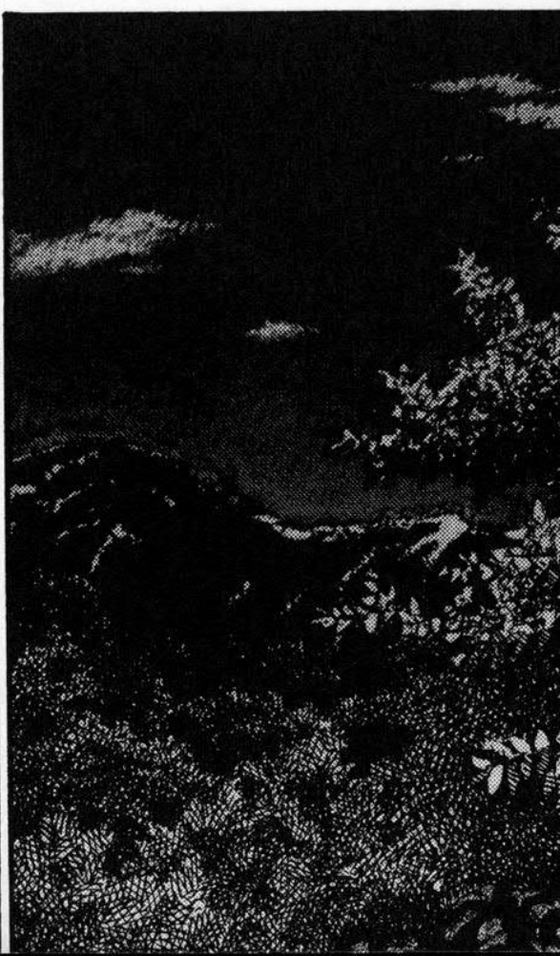
HMM?
HMM?
I CAN'T STAND HIS EYES.
SHE FEELS THE SAME HATRED TOWARDS TAKEZŌ AS I DO!!
SHE IS MY SON'S FIANCÉE.
DON'T YOU, OTSŪ?
OKAY.
NOT "OKAY"!
NOT "UH"!
UH...
SAY, YES!
DON'T YOU?
DON'T YOU!?
...

PLEASE EXCUSE OTSU. SHE'S AN ORPHAN WHO DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO TEACH HER PROPER MANNERS.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SEVENTEEN, SHE'S NO IDEA HOW THE WORLD WORKS!

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GROW UP IF YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A BRIDE OF THE HON'IDEN FAMILY!!
YES, MA'AM.
KRIND



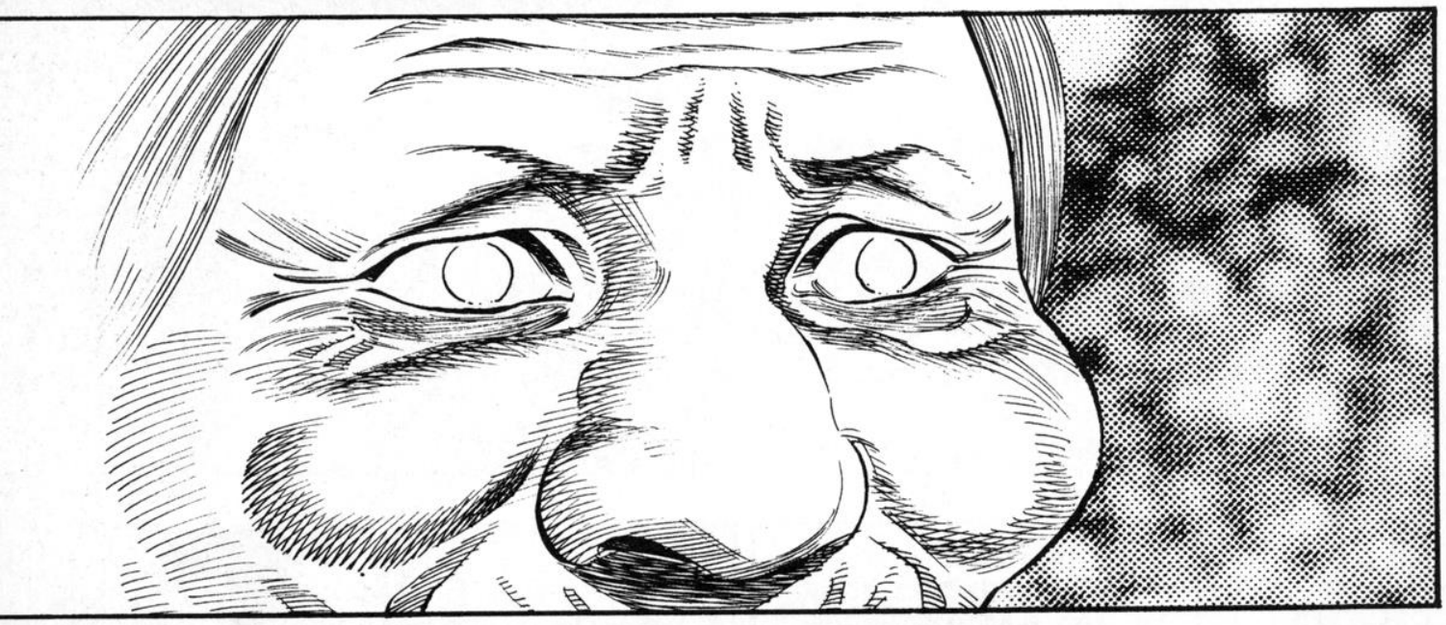
MMBL
MMBL
MMBL
MMBL
MMBL



YOU HAVEN'T DIED, HAVE YOU!?
YOU *MUST* BE ALIVE!!
URR.
ZHOOP
OH, MATAHACHI!!
MATAHACHI!?
MATAHACHI...
MATA-HACHI!?

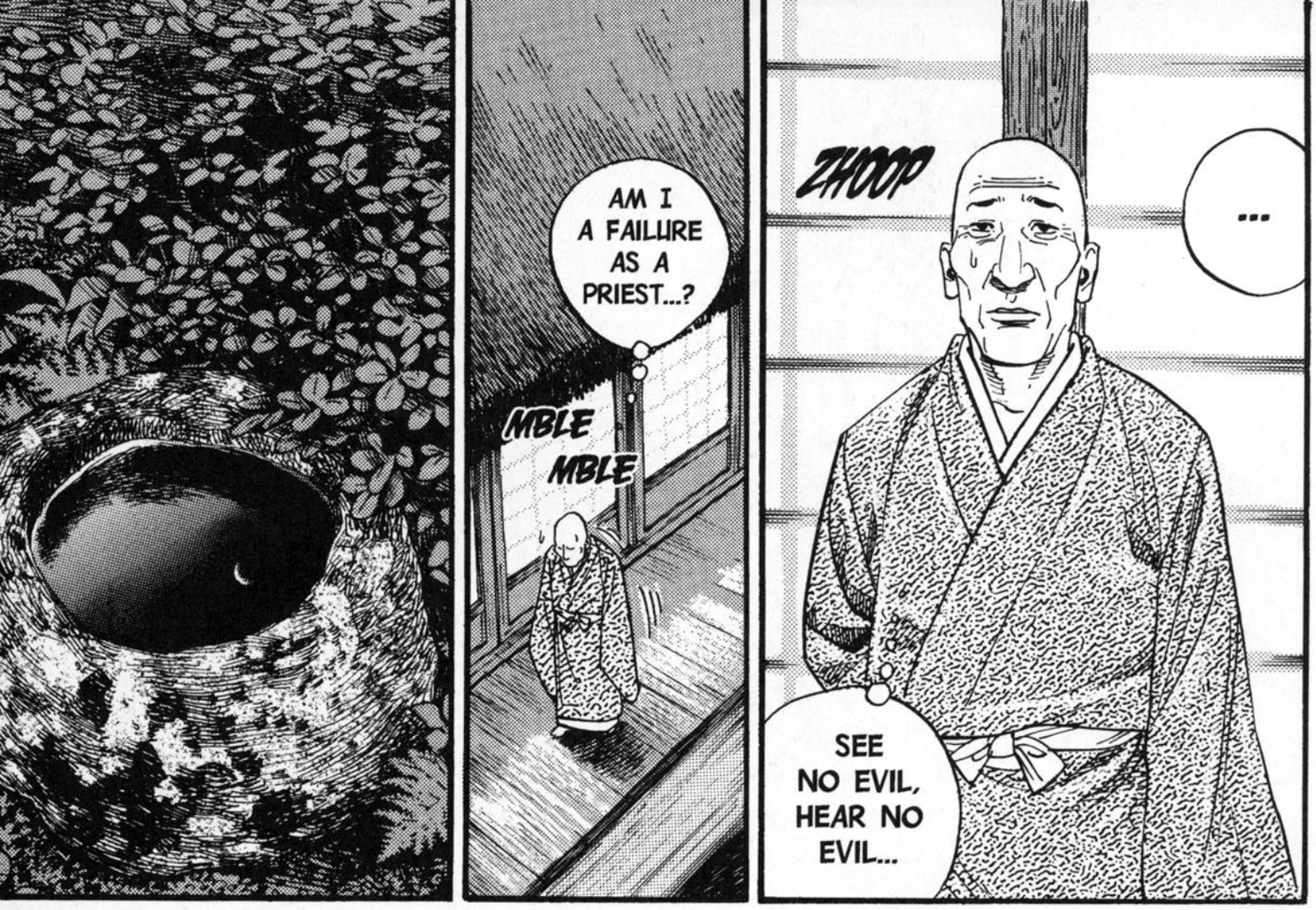
MOTHER
!!

GRANNY...



GRANNY...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

WHAT!?
OTSŪ, MY DEAR, THIS MAN MATAHACHI ...
FWIP
...
...PROBABLY DIED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
OTSŪ... WHY DON'T YOU POUR SOME SAKE...
...
...FOR OUR GUEST, CAPTAIN AOKI?
OTSŪ, YOU'RE BEING *RUDE!!*
URK
WITH *ONE* HAND!?
FSH
SURE.
MATA-HACHI'S DEAD.
...OTSŪ...IS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED INTO THE HON'IDEN FAMILY...
BUT...
...SO--
LEAVE.
HUH?
I DON'T NEED *YOUR* COMPANY.
YOU CAN GO NOW, PRIEST.


AM I A FAILURE AS A PRIEST...?
MBLE MBLE
ZHOOP
...
SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL...

SSIP
FICH
...
MEN PERISH EASILY IN WAR.
ALL THE MORE SO IF MATAHACHI WAS JUST A FOOT SOLDIER, HIS ONLY WEAPON A SPEAR.

FWIP
EVEN THIS *TAKEZŌ* WILL EVENTUALLY BE APPREHENDED AND KILLED BY MY MEN.
YOU MUST ACCEPT IT, MATAHACHI'S DEAD.
GLUG
...
GLUG
BUT MATAHACHI IS *STRONG*.
...SECOND ONLY TO TAKEZŌ.

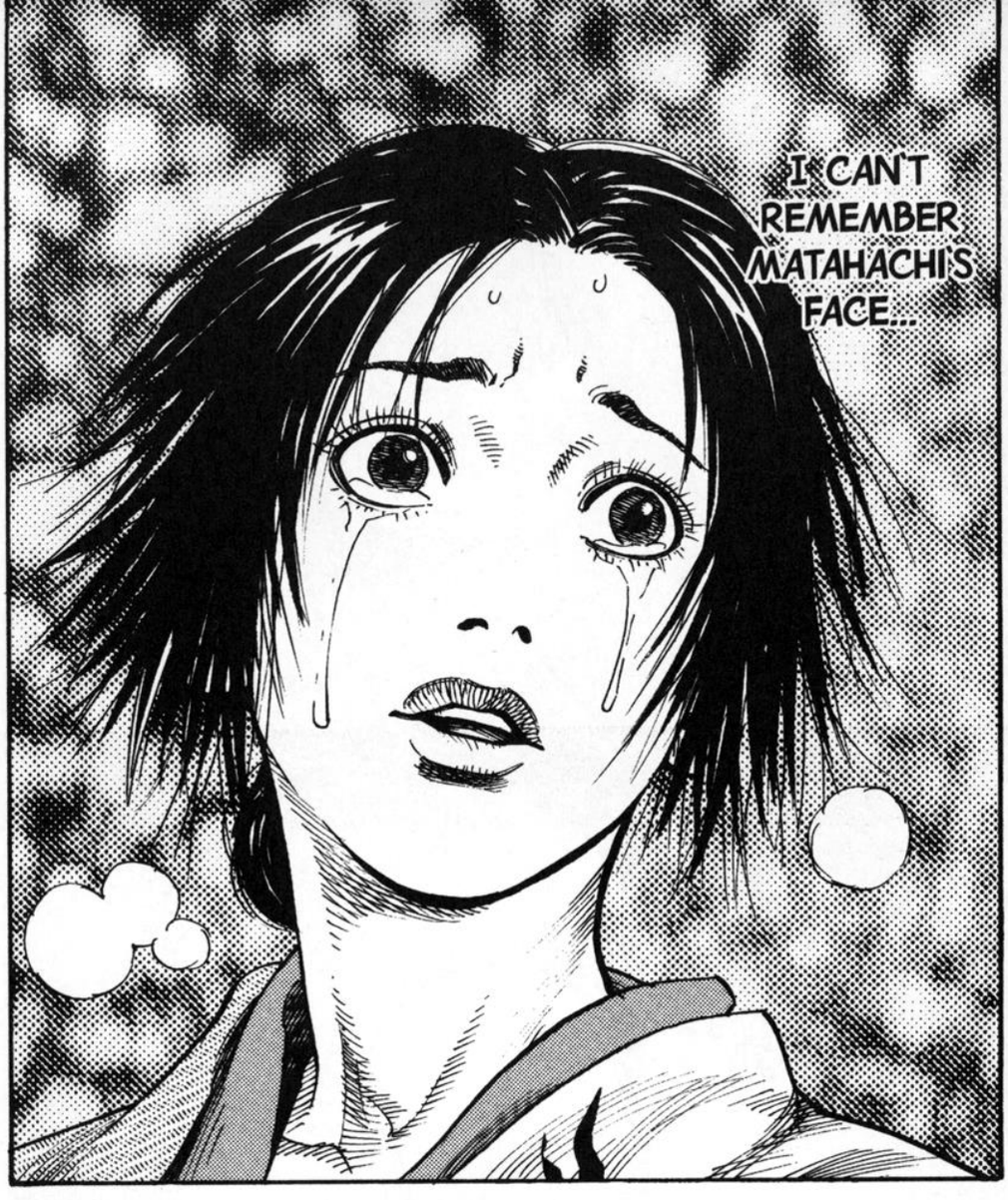
KYAAA!
OTSŪ!
TUGG
SO HOW ABOUT IT!? YOU AND ME!!
FWUD
AIEE!!
!?
THUD
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
UH-OH...
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
UR.
WHUD

I'M MATAHACHI'S FIANCÉE.
I'M GOING TO MARRY INTO THE HON'IDEN FAMILY!!
IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED!!
TNK

OH MATAHACHI... MATAHACHI-!?
YUK! THAT WAS SCARY. AND GROSS.

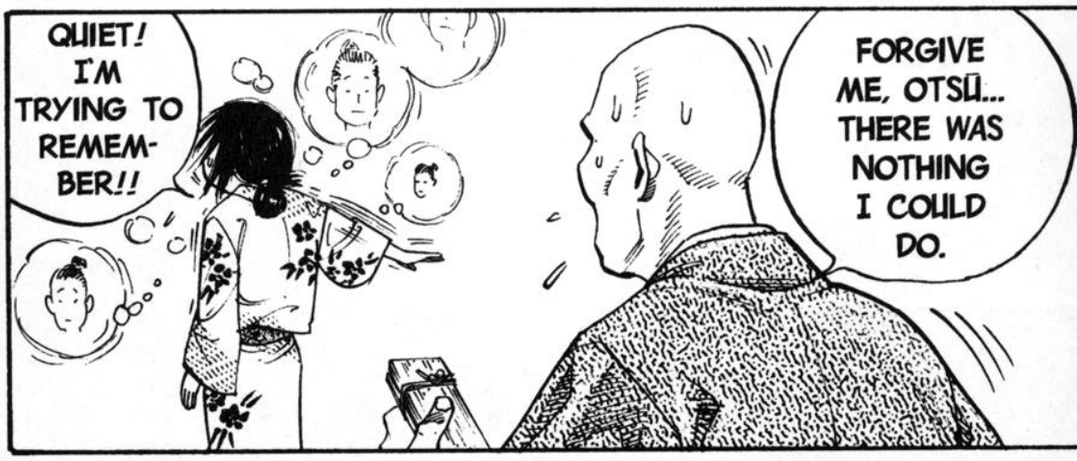
FORGIVE ME, OTSŪ.

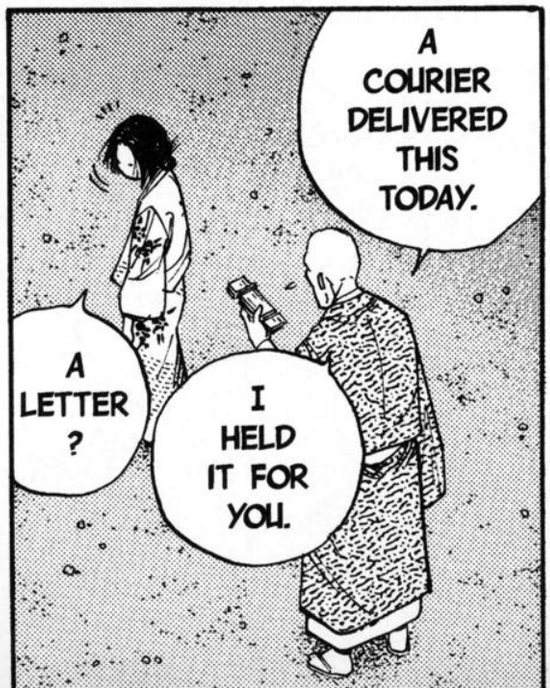
HEY!!
OTSŪ.
TUMP
TUMP


I CAN'T REMEMBER MATAHACHI'S FACE...

HUH...?

FOR ME?


QUIET! I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER!!
FORGIVE ME, OTSŪ... THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.


A COURIER DELIVERED THIS TODAY.
A LETTER?
I HELD IT FOR YOU.

MATA-HACHI, PLEASE COME HOME SOON.
WHY ...?
OTSŪ.

GRANNY...
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU...
WHO WOULD SEND A LETTER TO AN ORPHAN LIKE ME?

MATA-
HACHI'S--

!!
FWISH

I'LL
KILL YOU
AND THEN
I CAN
DIE!

I'LL KILL MYSELF AFTER KILLING YOU!!
!?
FWISH
EEYAAH!
MATAHACHI'S STILL ALIVE!!
THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU.
!!

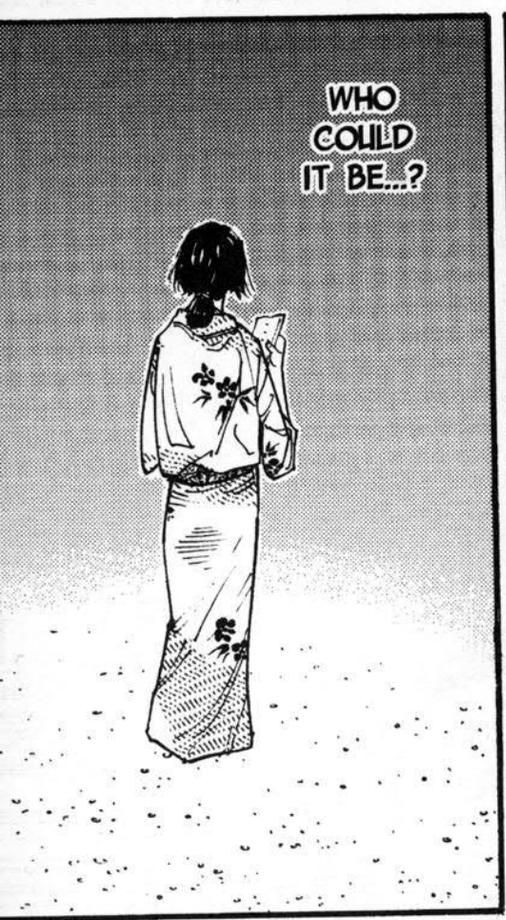
#10 Left Behind

IS IT TRUE, TAKEZŌ?
DO YOU SWEAR IT'S TRUE?
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GRANNY ?
...
BUT--
YEAH ...
SOB
SOB
...
MATAHACHI ...
SOB
SOB
THEN WHY DIDN'T HE COME BACK HOME?

DRAGGED HIM OFF?
WHY DIDN'T HE COME BACK!?
THIS IS ALL WRONG.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DRAGGED HIM OFF, AND YOU END UP RETURNING...
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!!
GIVE MATAHACHI BACK TO ME!!
WHERE IS HE!?
URK
HOW DARE YOU SNEAK BACK HOME ALONE!?
...
THMP
THMP
THMP
ARRGH!
TAKEZŌ!! BRING MATAHACHI BACK HERE TO HIS MOTHER!
BRING HIM HERE!
URR

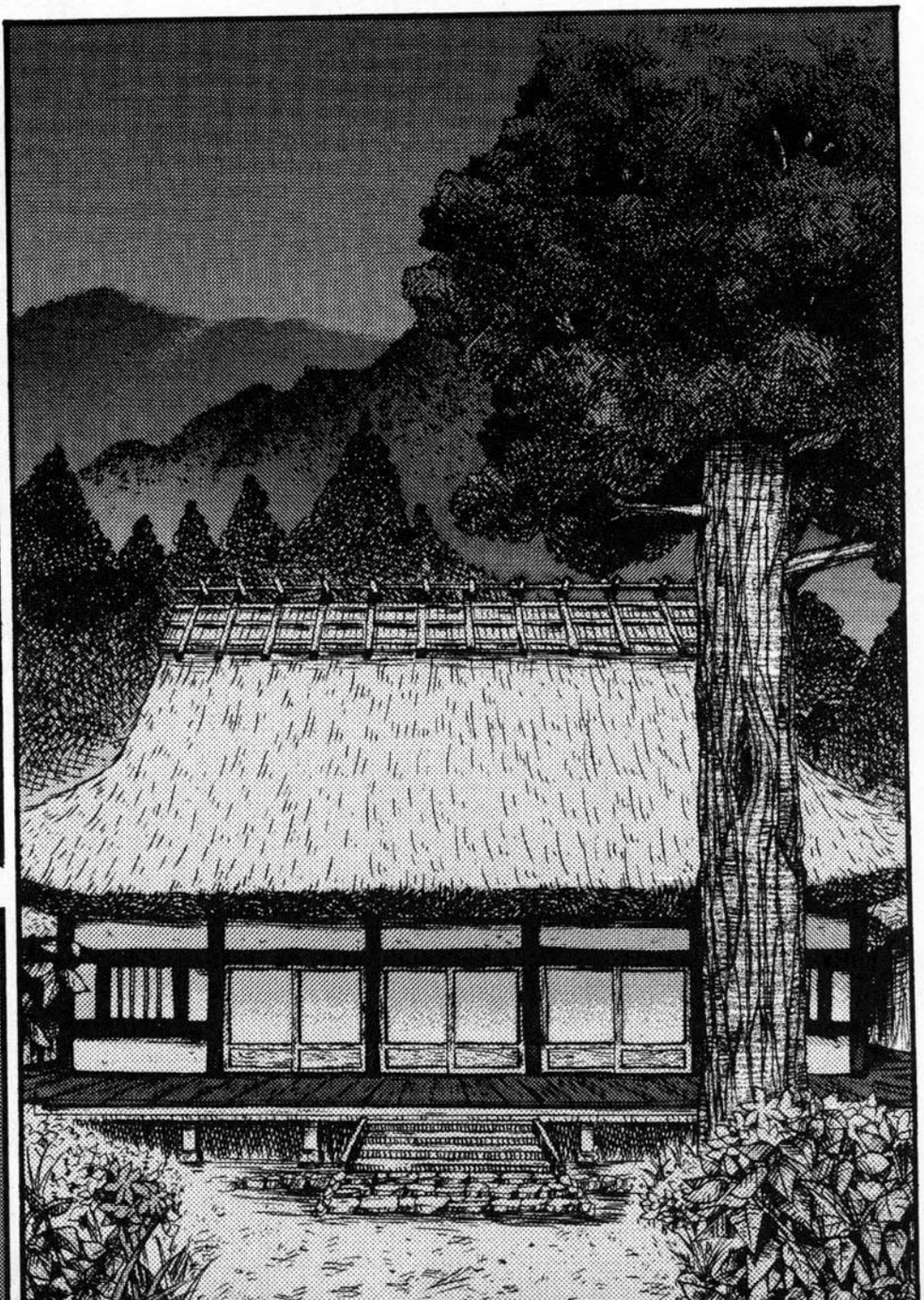
!?

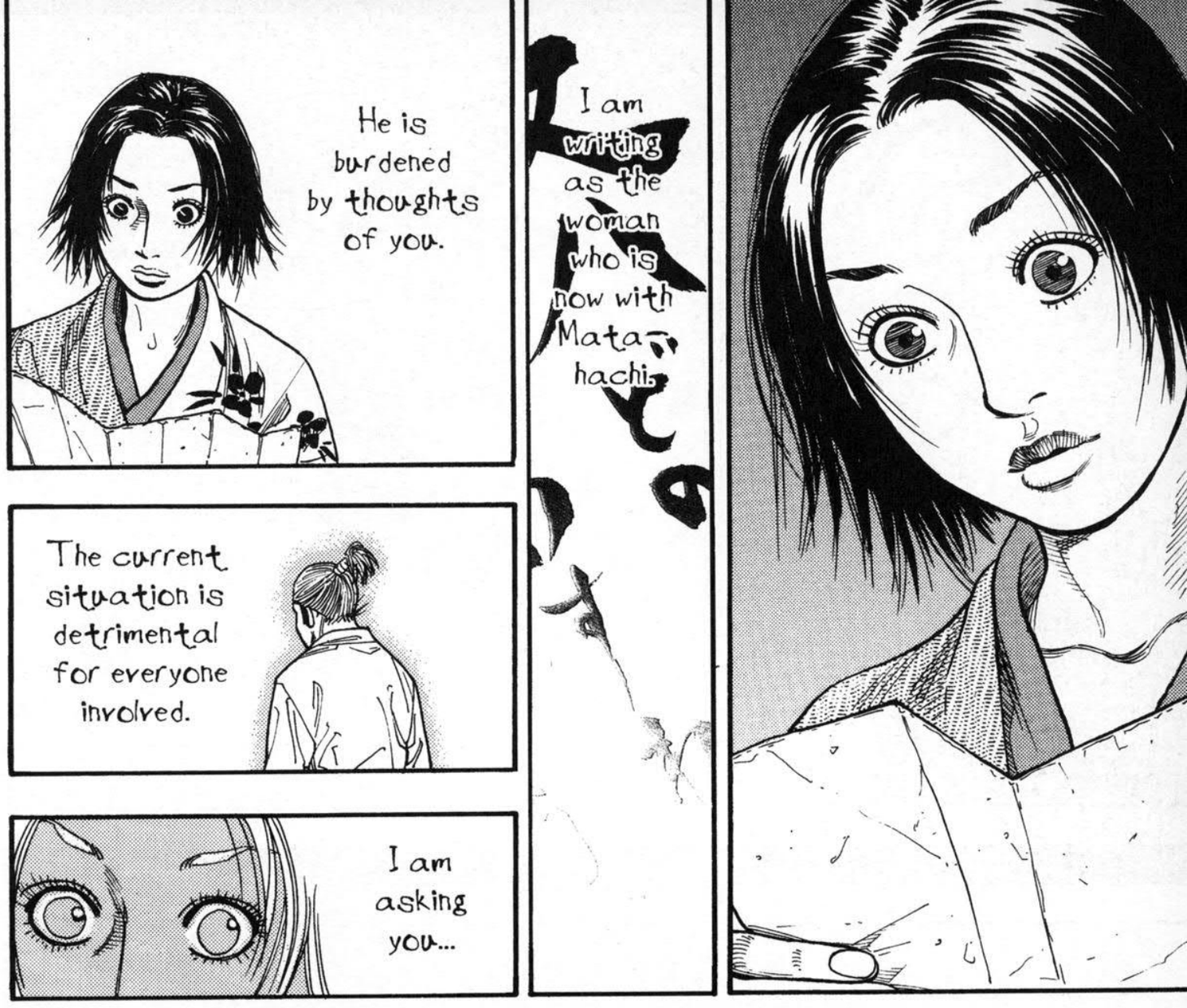
HE'S LIVING WITH A WOMAN IN ANOTHER PROVINCE.


WHO COULD IT BE...?

(TO OTSŪ)

おつう殿
おつう




He is burdened by thoughts of you.
I am writing as the woman who is now with Mata-hachi.
The current situation is detrimental for everyone involved.
I am asking you...

...to forget Mata-hachi.
Okō

OKŌ?

...MATAHACHI'S FACE.

I'm sorry. Otsū. Just forget about me.

And have a happy life.
Matahachi

I REMEMBER NOW...

WHO'S OKŌ?
SNIF

AAAA!
ARRGH!
!?
CHOMP
ARRGH
ARRGH!
WHAT'S WRONG, OTSŪ!?
AAA!
WHO'S OKŌ!? WHY--!!

I'M SO ASHAMED. I LOST CONTROL.
COME ON IN.
THESE ARE MATA-HACHI'S.
FWP
YOU CAN WEAR THEM.
...EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR YOU.
HURRY UP...
...I'M SORRY.
YOU'VE BEEN STUCK IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR SO LONG.
I'M FINE.
BUT YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
UH...
STAY. I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BATH WHILE I PREPARE YOUR MEAL?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY --?
...
I'M MATA-HACHI'S MOTHER.

AFTER ALL...
...YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON'S FRIEND.
...!!
IS THE BATH WATER HOT ENOUGH?
PLSH
IT'S FINE...
...
SO TAKEZŌ, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?

I WANT TO CHALLENGE MEN LIKE YAGYŪ AND YOSHIOKA.
KRCH
I'M GOING TO JOURNEY ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY...
...TO POLISH MY SKILLS AS A SWORDSMAN.
PLISH
PLISH
TO TRAIN IN THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR, EH? VERY ADMIRABLE.

KRICH
...ALL THE MASTER SWORDSMEN RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE LAND.
I WANT TO FIND OUT... HOW STRONG I REALLY AM.
KRICH

PLISH

THERE HE IS!!
YOU CAN GO NOW.
GOOD WORK, GRANNY.
HA HA

...

JUST IN CASE.
YOU MEN CLOSE OFF ALL ESCAPE PATHS.
YES SIR!

ALL RIGHT THEN.

MATA-HACHI IS ALIVE.
THAT'S THE ONLY PART I'LL BELIEVE !!
YOU PATHETIC BASTARD.
THINK I'D FALL FOR THOSE LIES?
YOU *LURE* MY SON OFF TO WAR.
YOU *DARE* TO COME BACK WITHOUT HIM...
...THEN YOU HAVE THE *NERVE* TO TELL ME THAT MY MATAHACHI'S IN ANOTHER PROVINCE WITH SOME WOMAN.
YOU'RE FINISHED, YOU BASTARD!!
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!!

THUNK
HEY!
KRICH
THERE HE IS!!

SO THIS WAS A TRAP...
...GRANNY.
DON'T BOTHER PUTTING UP A FIGHT. IT'S USE-LESS.
JUST TURN YOURSELF IN.
OF COURSE, ONCE YOU DO, YOUR HEAD WILL BE CHOPPED OFF.
IT'S ALL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF MIYAMOTO VILLAGE.
HEE HEE!
THIS VILLAGE DOESN'T NEED ANY TROUBLE-MAKERS!
YOU'RE A DEMON!
...!
TAKE HIM!

ドスッ
URR
!!

YOU COWARDS.
KRICH
IF YOU'RE GONNA COME AT ME, YOU BETTER BE WILLING TO KILL ME...
OF COURSE...
...IF YOU'RE GONNA TRY TO KILL ME...

...I'LL KILL YOU FIRST.
MATAHACHI, YOU BASTARD!!
YOU JERK!!
AAAAAAA
YOU TRAITOR!!

Vagabond

End of volume 1

Fp: Facebook.com/meganebuk